

SigEp Journal

Sigma Phi Epsilon
FALL 2014

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From Olympian to executive:
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John Abraham, '77, and
his Cincinnati brothers are
building the fraternity house
of the future.



Phillip A. Cox, Indiana '84, served the Fraternity as chapter counselor, Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC) president and treasurer for the Indiana Beta Chapter. He also served as district governor for Indiana from 1993-98. He is a Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient. At the 2013 Conclave in Grapevine, Texas, Cox was elected Grand President.

Cox has been in investment management for 20 years and is the national director of managed accounts and alternative investments for Schwab Institutional. He enjoys visiting SigEp chapters and meeting with the brothers and volunteers. Brother Cox resides in Indianapolis with his wife Jane. Their twins, Phillip and Caroline, are college students at North Carolina and Miami of Ohio, respectively.

Getting ready for Nashville

I'll never forget the energy at the 53rd Grand Chapter Conclave in Dallas. As I took the stage to accept my nomination as Grand President, I was struck by the electrifying energy of the 1,400 undergraduates and alumni present. They had come to celebrate our brotherhood from all over the country. Despite their diverse backgrounds, these men had something in common: they believed in SigEp. As I began my acceptance speech, I looked into their eyes and promised to live up to their belief in our Fraternity. For the next two years, we would work harder than ever to provide the best fraternity experience possible. As I said in my speech that day, it all starts with the Balanced Man Program.

Recognizing that our brand-defining Balanced Man Program provides the best chapter experience for our brothers, we've created new resources to help chapter leaders implement the program. We've also worked through regional directors to teach the program more effectively, and we expanded our Carlson Leadership Academy sessions to include more education on program implementation. Armed with these new tools, our undergraduates have been able to recruit and retain more men than ever who share our values and ideals; and this year our number of lifetime members rose to more than 312,000. They've also been able to improve academically, growing our national GPA to an unprecedented 3.15.

Running a successful chapter also requires consistent volunteer support at the campus level. Over the past 16 months, we've expanded the scope and quality of the volunteer education sessions at the Carlson Leadership Academy and Conclave. We've given more than 400 volunteers access to advanced education at these two leadership events, and we've reached dozens more through regional "Drive-Ins," hosted in cities across the U.S. Today, our Headquarters staff is providing regular support through new, volunteer Facebook communities and a highly acclaimed



video education series. Many volunteers have written to me saying that the education is the best they've received, and that they can't wait to get more.

Finally, by merging our Fraternity and Foundation staffs, we've been able to more effectively communicate with our donors, sharing with them the impact of their gifts and better recognizing their generosity. We've also been able to give our brothers more opportunities to give back, resulting in a major increase in donations last fiscal year and our largest-ever Foundation grant—\$1 million.

As we get ready for the 54th Grand Chapter Conclave in Nashville, Tenn., this summer, I look forward to feeling the energy in the air again. In the meantime, I remain committed to working alongside you to ensure every undergraduate has access to the best SigEp experience.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our great Fraternity. I'll see you at Conclave.

Faternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip A. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive.

PHILLIP A. COX
Grand President

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Fall 2014 Issue • Volume 112, Number 1
sigep.org • (804) 353-1901

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Published continuously since 1904, the **Journal** is issued twice a year in spring and fall. To maintain your subscription, please keep your address current at www.sigep.org/update or email address changes to address.update@sigep.net.

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The **Journal** welcomes all submissions sent to communications@sigep.net or to Journal Editor, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 310 South Boulevard, Richmond, Va. 23220.

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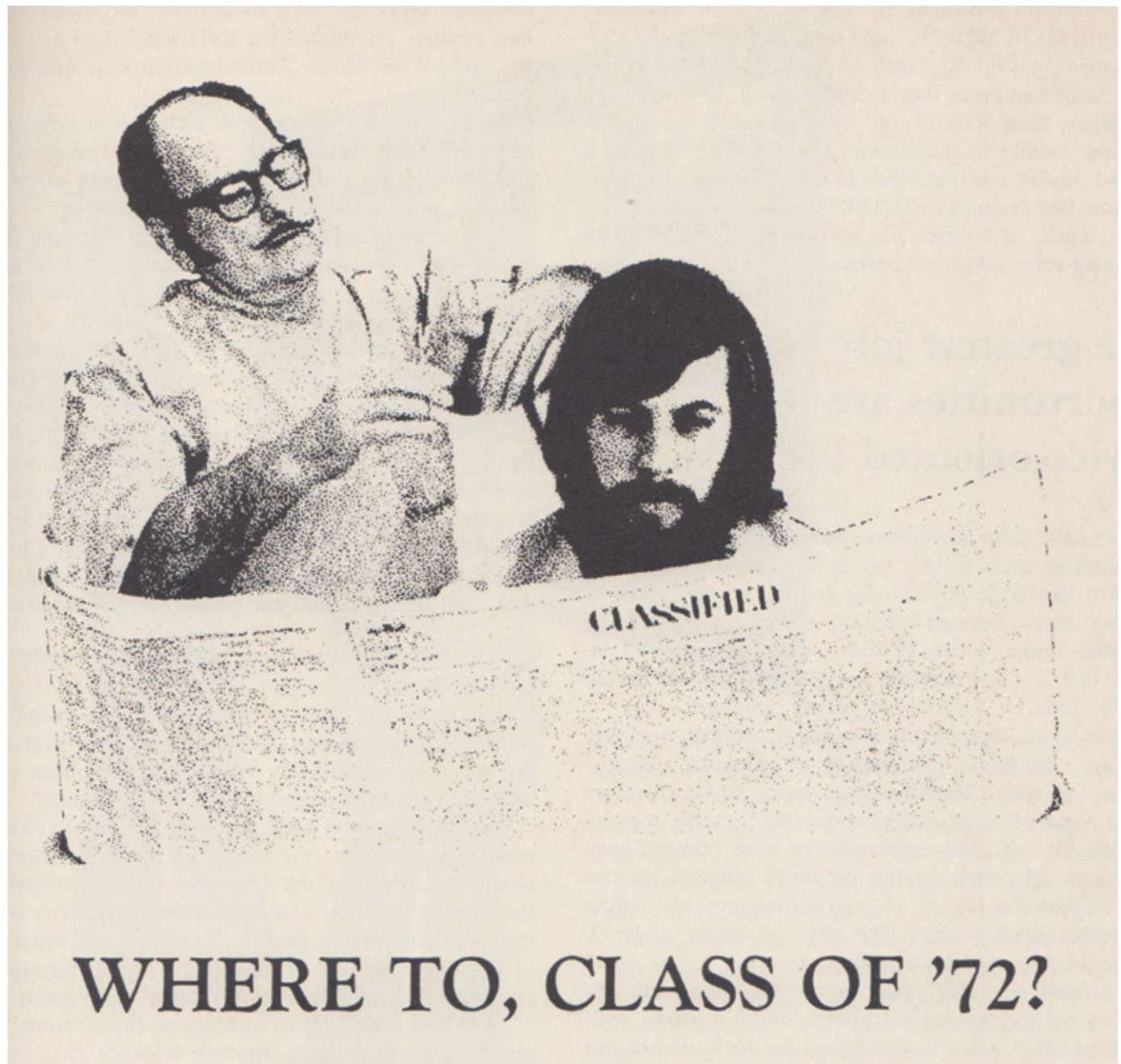
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Career advice from 1972 resonates today

Compiled by **JAN BRAMMER**, Marketing and Communications Coordinator



A special report on the job outlook for 1972 college graduates was featured in the Summer '72 Journal.

The advice for SigEp's seniors sounds familiar:

"As for the graduating class of '72, he faces a job market that probably is as tight as any since the late '30s and '40s. But if he looks hard ... if he doesn't make outrageous salary demands, and if he is willing to take a job in any field (meanwhile continually looking for an opening in his field), he probably will go to work this summer."

Today's graduates face an equally tough market, but SigEp's newest leadership event, Life After College (page 36), is helping brothers find their way after graduation. This two-day leadership event is designed to promote the life skills and career insights needed for post-collegiate success.



(Above) The spring issue featured SigEp brothers who are defining philanthropy through acts of service in their communities and across the globe. Articles prompted a number of thanks.

Brother was among first Marshall Scholars

Dear Journal Editor,

I was pleased to see the spring 2014 article by **Sean Anthony, Dartmouth '06**, about SigEps who are Rhodes and Marshall Scholars.

You may not know that a SigEp was in the first group of 12 Marshall Scholars chosen when the British Government program began in 1954. I was that SigEp, a former chapter president of Kentucky Alpha.

I had my undergraduate degree from Kentucky and a master's degree from Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism when I applied for the Marshall Scholarship while a staff member of the Courier-Journal in Louisville.

I chose to attend the University of Manchester in England for two years and received a Master of Arts degree in English literature.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES WHALEY, KENTUCKY '49

Brother touched by tribute

Dear Journal Editor,

I just wanted to send a quick note of thanks for the spring article, "A mantra for surviving cancer: Cherish life," authored by my friend and brother **Dennis Kaps, Ohio State '03**, that discussed my battle with cancer.

As Dennis mentioned, we got to know each other well enough that we could finish each other's sentences, so I was not surprised that he was so eloquent, articulate and kind in describing the fight of my life.

On July 4, 2012, I was lying in an emergency room, barely alert, on the verge of kidney failure and experiencing a strange sensation I can only describe as dying. I am proud to report that even on that day, my heart and soul were never in jeopardy.

My intense desire to eschew victimhood and live life to its fullest—before, during and after a physical battle that wrecked my body and nearly killed me—is deeply personal and hard to articulate.

Our Fraternity attracts men like Dennis and me because we share that ethos, so it's no surprise that we can finish even the most challenging of one another's sentences.

While I was not surprised, I *was* touched.

Fraternally,

JASON CHERISH, SAINT LOUIS '03



The bonds of fraternalism have kept Dennis Kaps (left) and Jason Cherish (right) together through life's challenges, including Cherish's battle with cancer.

"Thank you for my son's Ruck experience"

Dear SigEp,

My son, **Jake Roselli, Oregon State '15**, just returned from the Ruck Leadership Institute and had the time of his life. He came home and told his grandparents that he was "totally blown away" by the whole experience.

I am a former traveling consultant with Kappa Alpha Theta and fully appreciate the value in these leadership opportunities. He is so engaged about his experience and how he is going to share it with the others in his chapter who can't fully understand the opportunity he has had.

I could not be more thrilled as a parent with his SigEp experience. So much of the man he is becoming is due to his affiliation with SigEp, and for that, I am so thankful!

I have been an active alumna, and know Jake will be as well.

BETSY MILLER



Betsy Miller and her son, Jake Roselli, enjoy a summer day on the Willamette River.



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UNDER 40

SigEp Journal
Spring 2015



NOMINATE A BROTHER TODAY

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Save the Date

January 2015

San Diego State Alumni Barbecue

San Diego, Calif. 1/31
Contact Ron Smith at ronsred@cox.net.

February 2015

Carlson Leadership Academies

Orange County, Calif. 1/30-2/1
Atlanta, Ga. 1/30-2/1
Stamford, Conn. 2/6-8
Chicago, Ill. 2/20-22
Oklahoma City, Ok. 2/20-22
sigep.org/cla

Kansas City Metro Alumni Social

Kansas City, Kan. 2/5
Contact Brendan Waters at brendan.waters@careerep.net.

Tennessee Alumni Planning Retreat

Townsend, Tenn. 2/6-7
Contact Kelly Williams at utk92@aol.com.
Go to www.tnalphabet.com.

Southern Illinois ARETE Awards Dinner

Edwardsville, Ill. 2/8
Contact Lyle Ward at lward47@charter.net.
Go to www.sigepsiuue.com.

New Mexico Pack the Pit

Albuquerque, N.M. 2/21
Contact Aaron Hiner at aaronhiner@msn.com.

March 2015

Ruck Leadership Institute Application

Deadline 3/6

Rhode Island Alumni Basketball Game

Kingston, R.I. 3/7
Contact John J. Collins at sigepribeta@gmail.com.

Dayton Alumni Weekend

Dayton, Ohio 3/27-28
Contact Drew Heldt at heldt.drew@gmail.com.

April 2015

Morehead State 45th Anniversary Celebration

Morehead, Ky. 4/10
Contact Brian Gay at briannicholasgay@gmail.com.

Nebraska-Kearney 50th Anniversary Celebration

Kearney, Neb. 4/17-18
Contact Alex Straatmann at alexander.straatmann@gmail.com.

Tennessee Tech Alumni Golf Tournament

Cookeville, Tenn. 4/18
Contact Bryan Webb at blwebb55@gmail.com or go to www.sigepgolf.org.

Northwest Missouri 35th Anniversary

Maryville, Mo. 4/18
Contact Troy Bair at troy.bair@genmills.com.

Virginia Tech Spring Football Game Reunion

Blacksburg, Va. 4/24-26
Contact Joe Catalano at jcatalano@sandyspringbank.com.

Massachusetts Annual Luncheon

Amherst, Mass. 4/25
Contact Alexander Bernstein at alexandernbernstein@gmail.com.

Barton 57 Founders Day

Wilson, N.C. 4/25
Contact Freddy Massimi at Frederick_massimi@yahoo.com.

Rhode Island Alumni Barbecue and Golf Outing

Kingston, R.I. 4/25
Contact John J. Collins at sigepribeta@gmail.com.

May 2015

Kansas City Alumni Social

Kansas City, Kan. 5/7
Contact Brendan Waters at brendan.waters@careerep.net.

Cincinnati Grand Opening Celebration

Cincinnati, Ohio 5/15-16
Contact Rey Medina at reymedina@hotmail.com.
Go to ucsigep.org.

Pennsylvania State 100th Anniversary

College Park, Penn. 5/15-17
Contact Jim Edwards at enduin@aol.com.

Baker STAG 2015

Baldwin City, Kan. 5/16
Contact Caleb Watts at calebawatts@gmail.com.

June 2015

Tragos Quest to Greece

Greece 6/11-21

Ruck Leadership Institute

Richmond, Va. 6/17-21

July 2015

50th Michigan Tech Reunion

Houghton, Mich. 7/17-19
Contact Reunion Staff at reunion@mtusigeps.com.
Go to www.mtusigeps.com/218/.

Spring 2015 EDGE

Dates listed at sigep.org/edge.

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Red Door Notes

The red door on SigEp chapter houses started at Syracuse University in 1928. While not the only factor in a high-performing chapter, well-appointed chapter facilities establish the foundation for creating the right experience through efforts like the Balanced Man Program and Residential Learning Communities.

SigEps lead the fight against sexual assault at Valparaiso

By DALE THOMAS VAUGHN, Southern Methodist '06

Sexual assault on college campuses is an epidemic with no cure ... yet. As the scope of this issue plagues campuses across the country, many university leaders look at their embattled Greek systems and consider (secretly or openly) whether to engage the culture or disengage the systems altogether. They are looking for signs of hope.

That hope has emerged at Valparaiso. Borne by our Fraternity's leadership and backed by a committed institution, a SigEp-led program has shown promise for creating a climate with the key prerequisite for change: 100 percent awareness. A culture has to be acute in its awareness before sexual violence prevention will work. That awareness takes time, a student catalyst, university commitment and a full programming calendar.

At Valparaiso, the catalysts were undergraduate SigEps in 2001. These men realized that they needed to know more about sexual assault to be able to prevent it in the house. They met with Paula Dranger, director of Sexual Assault Awareness and Facilitative Education (SAAFE), who recounted what happened when she and her SAAFE Student Advocates went to the SigEp house.

"We divided into four groups and asked each group to present ideas about what a safe house could look like," said Dranger. "There were so many good ideas. I asked them how they thought we should prioritize the ideas, and the president said, 'No, we're going to do them all.'"

After that first day, Dranger remembers telling her staff, "I think we've just seen something amazing happening. And what makes it so wonderful is that men did this."

The chapter instituted what it called SAAFE House Squads at parties, where certain brothers wore a yellow shirt to mark their job: keep an eye out for potentially dangerous situations. They would report erratic behavior or other hazardous situations directly to Dranger, knowing that the chapter might have to deal with some consequences.



The Valparaiso chapter's SAAFE House program has become a model for preventing sexual assaults on campus.

"They understood that brotherhood means being responsible for the brothers and to the chapter and to the ideals of the Fraternity," said Dranger. "They were totally committed to doing something about this issue."

In the 13 years since that meeting, the university has instituted the SAAFE and Empowering Organization program across the Greek community. Chapters are required to earn accreditation annually by attending awareness and educational programs about bystander intervention and rape myths.

"When we talk about Title IX and VAWA education, we can count on [reaching] 30 percent of the campus right away," said Assistant Dean of Students Dr. Carolyn Whittier. "The fraternity and sorority community is a really effective vehicle to spread this message."

"We're interested in embedding the change efforts into the culture of the campus," said Dr. Stewart Cooper, director of counseling services.

The programming and awareness is so embedded in fact, that the men in the chapter don't seem to think it's extraordinary. They expect everyone to understand that young men have the responsibility to care for and protect anyone who is vulnerable. "It doesn't feel

special or unique, this is just what you do," said Marshall Miller, '14, former chapter president and current SigEp national student director.

Chapter President Caleb Liptak, '15, still questioned whether the education was deep enough. He said 94 percent of brothers participate in some sort of SAAFE event over the course of a year, and 90 percent participate in the VU Owns the Night walk, but he confessed that they want new ideas on how to do more. "Everyone knows sexual assault is bad," said Liptak. "Nobody is hesitant to talk about it on this campus."

That simple sentiment—so common on Valparaiso's campus and yet woefully underrepresented on many campuses in the country—is the blueprint for a future without rape in the Greek system.

If the Greek system is going to partner with universities, lead the charge and survive the next 100 years, it can watch and learn from the model conceived and carried out at Valparaiso's SigEp house.



Dale Thomas Vaughn, founder of the Global Center for Healthy Masculinities (HealthyMasculinities.org) is a writer and campus speaker on sexual assault prevention.



A partnership with Northern Kentucky's Leadership Institute brought courses inside the chapter's on-campus facility.

Bringing courses in house helps chapter stand out

By **TREY WYDYSH**, Richmond '07

"Toga! Toga! Toga!" Since the 1970s, Hollywood has given the public a less than stellar image of fraternity brothers. On film and TV, these "frat boys" are little more than booze guzzling, womanizing man-children. No matter how funny we may find them, they don't portray an accurate image of the fraternity man.

The SigEps at Northern Kentucky are fighting to change that image. As one of the Fraternity's newest Residential Learning Communities (RLCs), the chapter has already made great strides to establish themselves as anything but a Hollywood fraternity stereotype.

Inspired by the neighboring RLC at Cincinnati, the brothers set out to offer university courses inside their chapter home. They believed this would give them the perfect opportunity to stand out from other fraternities on campus, according to RLC Chairman **Gavin Bonar**, '14. However, a tight budget at the university led to a cut in funding for the first planned class.

"We weren't ready to give up, so I met with the dean of students," Bonar said. "He suggested we build some momentum and offer the classes through the school's 'Leadership Institute.'"

Back on track, the chapter kicked off classes this fall, first offering a healthy living course to all students on campus and an Interfraternity Council-sponsored course to men in the Greek community titled "Values of a Fraternity Man."

Chapter President **Max Heckel**, '14, is enrolled in the values course taught by Greek life adviser and fellow SigEp **Adam Dralle, Valparaiso '10**. Heckel said the 12-student class examines the core values of fraternities and how members of each fraternity reflect those values.

This spring the chapter is looking forward to "Manhood 101," a class they will co-host with SigEps from Cincinnati. Led by various alumni and a faculty fellow, the class will focus on topics ranging from proficiency in life skills like cooking and repairing your car, to characteristics and values that make a man.

The classes are a first step on this chapter's path to establishing itself as a major presence on campus. Alumni Volunteer Corporation President **Mark Gallondorn**, '09, and Chapter Counselor **Mark Krzywonos**, '84, are impressed with the strides the chapter has made since rechartering in 2009.



Northern Kentucky brothers, flanked by volunteers, receive their RLC plaque at the 2014 Carlson Leadership Academy.

"The program has a lot of advantages for the chapter and its members," Gallondorn said. "It gives exposure to our organization and its values by allowing the university leadership and other students the ability to learn about a great fraternal organization and its members."

Alumni and Volunteer News

Two national platforms with a singular purpose: Higher Education

By KENT STEWARD and BEAUX CARRIERE, Charleston '10

It is rare for one man to be both a symbol of continuity and a catalyst for change.

The thousands of brothers who have attended Conclave over the years would be shocked if they did not see a signature red blazer on the legislative floor. For more than three decades, that blazer has been worn by **Dr. Ed Hammond, Emporia State '66**. The same man is a futurist, a visionary who has helped his university and his fraternity play bigger, bolder roles on the national stage.

This is a man on a mission. He started on this path early in his career and has not wavered. He moves on to the next ambitious objective before the paint is dry on his previous win.

Hammond's long record of innovations, achievements and public service make him a model for brothers. After committing a lifetime to the advancement of higher learning, his work has left an indelible mark on campuses and Greek systems across the country.

This past June, Hammond retired as president of Fort Hays State University after more than 27 years at the helm, but his life's work is far from complete.

In his signature role as the Fraternity's Grand Chapter Parliamentarian, Hammond has presided over ground-breaking legislation for three decades.



Hammond, wearing his famous red jacket, is hard at work as SigEp's Educational Foundation president. Last year the Foundation made their largest grant ever in support of Fraternity Programs: \$1 million.

Eyes on the future

Recognized as a futurist, a field in which he is widely published, Hammond has spent his career helping institutions and communities plan for emerging opportunities, global trends and advances in technology.

Hammond understands that the world is changing quickly, and he sees institutions of higher education at the center of these changes. "What used to take 100 years to occur in the agricultural age is now happening in a little over a year and a half," said Hammond in a 2001 interview. "People are going to turn to institutions, like institutions of higher education, to sort through this tremendous explosion of information."

Arriving at Fort Hays State in the late 1980s, Hammond was determined to "electrify" the campus. Always resourceful, a young Hammond quickly acquired computers and accessories from a failed Denver business. Shortly after, he helped secure a gift of computer equipment from telecom giant AT&T. As a result, all faculty received computers, and student computer labs were set up across campus.

Rather than raze the school's dated but graceful limestone buildings, Hammond had them upgraded and equipped for Fort Hays State's high-tech learning environment. The campus began to expand quickly as he spearheaded numerous construction projects, including academic buildings, student housing, and most recently, a 50,400-square-foot indoor training facility for student-athletes.

Technology and the ability to connect communities and people to information have always been important to Hammond. "We've taken our technology in computing and telecommunications and exploited [them] more than we've exploited any other technologies that have driven any other age," Hammond said, reflecting on the exponential acceleration of the late 20th century.

At Fort Hays State, Hammond would pioneer changes in the way education was delivered. In 1997, he merged educational technology and continuing education programs to form the "Virtual College," which now serves more than 5,000 students across Kansas, the nation and the world.

Just three years later, Hammond would anchor Fort Hays State to an international community through a trial partnership with China's Sias International. A mere 50 students quickly grew to an enrollment of 3,200 at two partner universities in mainland China. Each spring Hammond led an American delegation, including members of the Kansas Board of Regents, to China so they could personally award diplomas to these graduates.

Working with SigEp, Hammond has also kept his eyes on the future. During his term as Grand President, the Fraternity ushered in a new era of chapter housing with the Residential Learning Community program, pioneered new education on alcohol and drugs, and helped all chapters connect with philosophies of the Balanced Man Program. In his signature role as the Fraternity's Grand Chapter Parliamentarian, Hammond presided over groundbreaking legislation for three decades. These pivotal changes include the launch of the Balanced Man Program, the open acceptance of brothers regardless of sexual orientation and a constant rise in membership standards.

Helping students keep up

As education systems continue to evolve, Hammond has been unrelenting in his quest to ensure that students don't fall behind. At both Fort Hays State and SigEp, he has been a tireless advocate for students and their access to education.

When Hammond stepped down this June, Fort Hays State had the lowest tuition of any four-year school in Kansas and among the lowest in the nation. With a commitment to hold the line on tuition in the face of declining state funding, Hammond devoted himself to raising private funds for the university. During his administration, the total assets of the Fort Hays State Foundation grew from \$7.3 million to nearly \$55 million, and the number of annual scholarships awarded to students has quadrupled.

But providing an affordable education wasn't enough for Hammond. He was determined to connect with underserved communities and expose students to the opportunities available through a college degree. Hammond realized he needed to do more to attract first generation college students. He initiated an annual expedition to far-flung communities across the state and country. Hammond's annual journey would take him and Fort



Hammond transformed Fort Hays State during his term as president, growing the university's endowment by more than 650 percent. Here he entertains Fort Hays State alumni with university mascot, Victor E. Tiger.

Hays State faculty to more than a dozen cities where they would introduce high school students and parents to the burgeoning university.

Given the affordability and quality of Fort Hays State's educational programs, its status as the fastest growing university in Kansas is no surprise. The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that Fort Hays State was the third fastest-growing university in the United States from 2001 to 2011, and enrollment climbed above 13,500 at the end of 2013.

Hammond may have retired as president of Fort Hays State, but he remains the leading man behind SigEp's Educational Foundation. Appointed as president of the Board of Trustees in August 2013, Hammond quickly went to work.

In his first year as Foundation president, Hammond stewarded a 15 percent increase in endowed funds to reach nearly \$13 million, and the Foundation made the largest grant ever in support of Fraternity programs with \$1 million this year.

Now at the helm of SigEp's Foundation, Hammond is maintaining his career-long focus—his eyes are on the future.



"I think it's rare for any undergraduate to get this experience in a classroom."

Wharton (center) leads the graduation procession at Stevens Institute of Technology. His recent book was researched and published with the help of SigEp undergraduates who invited him to join the Fraternity as a Renaissance Brother.

"I was taken aback. My advisor even made a comment about how many students attended the dissertation defense," Wharton said.

After earning his doctorate, Wharton continued the research for his book with the help of the chapter.

Wharton credits undergraduate Chris Lantz, Stevens Tech '07, for assisting him in finding a publisher for the book. "We were able to help out a friend and brother," Lantz said. "There was definitely a sense of pride among the men when they learned that the book was going to be published."

Wharton has since left Stevens and works as an assistant professor of political science and urban affairs at Southern Connecticut State. He is grateful for the help he received from the Stevens Tech Chapter, and he is thankful to have been able to offer them a unique academic experience.

"I think this process opened them up to understanding the whole graduate level research process," said Wharton. "I think it's rare for any undergraduate to get this experience in a classroom, and these men got the experience inside their Fraternity house."

Professor engages brothers in doctoral research

By **KEVIN TEETS**, Tennessee-Martin '06

Like many political science professors, **Dr. Jonathan Wharton, Stevens Tech Renaissance**, is also a published author. But the story behind Wharton's book has a plot twist unique to academia. It takes us to SigEp's Residential Learning Community at Stevens Institute of Technology.

When the Stevens Tech Chapter asked Wharton to become a Renaissance Brother, he accepted the invitation, and he went on to become the chapter's resident scholar and faculty fellow. He mentored undergraduates in the chapter, and asked some of them to assist in research for his dissertation at Howard University. That research is reflected in his recently published book, "A Post-Racial Change is Gonna Come: Newark, Cory Booker, and the Transformation of Urban America."

Wharton and his new chapter brothers studied the behaviors and attitudes of voters in Newark during the 2002 and 2006 elections. "We met each week for as long as four hours at the chapter house," Wharton said. "I would buy dinner, and

we'd discuss numbers and statistics to see if there was a certain angle to deal with the data we were collecting."

The research enabled Wharton to successfully defend his dissertation at Howard, and many of his brothers went to Washington, D.C., to share the milestone.



Wharton, right waving, celebrates a Buchanan Cup win with Stevens Tech brothers at the 2013 Conclave in Dallas, Texas.

A comic's journey

By ZAR TOOLAN, Columbia '01

It was 1998. **Matthew Matlack, Columbia '00**, and I turned off 113th Street and headed north up Amsterdam. The street-lights buzzed as we walked through the autumn air in the greatest city on earth, New York. We needed to find a guy named **Steve Hofstetter, '02**.

Steve was a tall, red-headed Jewish guy from Queens. He was oddly confident which was both appealing and annoying. The popular sports website he had started got bought out by either Sports Illustrated or ESPN. We needed to know him. Dotcoms were on a rapid growth trajectory, and so were we.

"Hofstetter's Sports Jerk of the Week" highlighted memorable athletes doing something memorably foolish. The posts were pretty well written, informative even. To build his brand awareness, Steve pretty much stole the NBA logo and put a jackass in place of the player. Genius. He owned the coveted 18-25 male market segment.

We finally reached his apartment. Steve was smiling. He's probably the happiest sarcastic person I know. We thought that Steve could help us with a culture that thrived on being different, given his own penchant for the off-kilter. We asked him to be a SigEp.

Steve quickly rose to take the helm of our little start-up, New York Phi, and set it on a fast pace to success. He was chapter president when we won our first Buchanan Cup. Our hunch was paying off, and that was only the beginning.

Steve brought big ideas to the National Board as a student director—even a crazy one about, "an online, social yearbook that would only be for SigEps or people they specifically asked to join." Yeah, over five years ahead of Facebook. Oops.

Steve threw another curveball in his junior year: "I'm taking next year off of school to work for the Yankees." And that's Steve. That borderline crazy in him makes other people wonder what path he's on. SigEp did that for him. He did that for SigEp. He may have done it for the Yankees. They won a World Series that year.

A few years later, he wrote to some of us saying, "My first stand-up comedy gig is in a few weeks. Any chance you can come?"



You want to be a what? A *comedian*? His first set was in the basement of a dive on Broadway called The Underground Lounge. We were ready to put on the laugh track for Steve's benefit. Nothing too overt, just enough to drown out the crickets after the punchline bombed.

Then, gut-busting laughs were bouncing off the walls. From the paying customers who came for the comedy, not the comedian. Steve was good. Really good. You could feel the start of something big.

As Steve toured colleges big and small, he sought out the SigEp chapter. He said, "My first year on the road, I spent a great deal of time on couches and in spare bedrooms. Before I could even afford a Red Roof Inn, I could always find a red door."

He got the brothers free tickets to his show, when he was basically working for free to build his punchlines. And street cred. Tough duty for a Jewish kid from Queens who never had a driver's license. Unless you were Steve. Then it just took time.

Steve slogged. He ground it out, gig after gig, when most people would have quit. He eventually bought Morty's Comedy Club in Indianapolis. (There's a joke in there somewhere.)

Steve's accolades include over 21 million YouTube views and a No. 1 album. He's appeared on CBS' Late Late Show with

Craig Ferguson and on Showtime's White Boyz in the Hood.

And now, he's host and executive producer of "Laughs" on Fox Networks. As he tackles this next exciting gig, Steve has not forgotten what SigEp did for him. "I always said if things got really big, I would show how grateful I was for SigEp," said Steve. So when he chose his tie colors for his new comedy show, he knew what to do. "Purple and red were the colors that got me here, and there is no way I would choose anything else."



Hofstetter shows off a collection of red and purple SigEp ties that he wears on his new Fox comedy showcase, "Laughs."

From Olympian to executive: a brother's winning formula for life

By MITCH GOLDICH, Lehigh '09

Many SigEp brothers come from humble beginnings and propel themselves to great prominence. Few have done it quite as dramatically as Bill Schmidt, North Texas '70.

For Schmidt, SigEp was one step in a journey toward becoming an Olympic medalist and sports marketing guru.

Schmidt grew up poor, in a tiny western Pennsylvania town with a two-room school. Schmidt's father was a coal miner who took his own life when Bill was young. He was the youngest of seven siblings. He and his twin brother were the only two who went to high school.

His first love was baseball, and he harnessed his strong arm on the pitcher's mound. In high school he took to the javelin, despite not having much experience. Armed with raw talent, but no guarantee of a scholarship, Schmidt took a risk and trekked down to North Texas.

Once at school, he found in SigEp an extended family who would help him face down any lingering uncertainty. He was 1,200 miles from home, and would spend Thanksgiving with his Fraternity brothers' families. The bonds of brotherhood came at a critical point after a difficult childhood. "It was a great life experience," Schmidt said. "I may not have thought about that at the time, but it's filled a variety of voids."

Always a hard worker, Schmidt kept busy with class, track and the Fraternity. It wasn't long before his javelin career took off. He focused heavily on technique and film study, and his arm strength grew every year. In one memorable meet, televised on ABC's famous Wide World of Sports, Schmidt won the California Relays on the final throw of the competition.

"You're going to face failure. And it'll only make you more resilient."

Schmidt was considered an underdog at the trials for the 1972 Summer Olympics, but that was a role he was comfortable playing. He qualified; and after arriving in Munich, threw a javelin 276 feet, 11 1/2 inches to win a bronze medal. No Americans have medaled in javelin since.

After his javelin career, Schmidt earned a master's degree from the University of Tennessee, where he also served as an assistant track coach in charge of recruiting. Fortuitously the World's Fair came to Knoxville in 1982, and Schmidt wrangled a role as the director of sports for the fair.

He took on the challenge of planning 26 weeks' worth of activities with a measly budget. Schmidt threw himself into the opportunity, planning everything from exhibition NBA and NFL games to a national bass fishing tournament.

Schmidt's experience set him on a path that eventually led him to Gatorade, where he helped the brand develop into the titan it is today. He helped broker sponsorship deals that led to events like the Homerun Derby, NBA Slam Dunk Contest and the Punt, Pass and Kick program. He also signed athletes like Michael Jordan.



No American has medaled in javelin since Schmidt took the bronze in 1972.

Schmidt, as CEO of Oakley Inc., models the wares.



His willingness to jump in without fear of failure has carried him throughout his career. "You're going to face failure," Schmidt said. "And it'll only make you more resilient. People who've been the most successful have had the highest failure quotient."

After leaving his mark on Gatorade, Schmidt went on to become CEO of Oakley. Today he lives in Knoxville, where he is president of Pegasus Sports Marketing. He's also a guest lecturer at the University of Tennessee and devotes time as a mentor.

Self-confidence has been critical to Schmidt's success, but he hasn't done it alone. Schmidt also credits his success in business to his ability to build relationships, much of which traces back to that pivotal time in his life when he found SigEp at North Texas.

"Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises."

~ DEMOSTHENES

Brother fights childhood obesity with innovative app

By **AARON JAY LEDESMA**, Marquette '14

"I was the fat kid," said **Dennis Ai**, **Northwestern '13**. "The first time I mustered up the courage to tell a girl I liked her, she responded by saying, 'But then my boyfriend would be fat.'" Through hard work, healthy lifestyle and perseverance, Ai lost weight and took control of his health. He made a better life for himself, and was inspired to help others do the same.

Ai founded JiveHealth, a for-profit startup with a mission to help kids live healthier, happier lives, and he started designing a new app that would make being healthy fun.

In March 2013 things began to heat up. His company won the "End Childhood Obesity Innovation Challenge" and was awarded a \$10,000 prize to help develop their app.

In addition to the cash prize, the summit arranged for Ai's company to



After winning the challenge in D.C., Ai had the opportunity to shake hands with event host First Lady Michelle Obama. "It was amazing and really nerve-wracking to actually meet her."

receive mentorship from McKinsey & Company, Edelman, and health startup coaching firm StartupHealth.

The app launched as Easy Eater 2 and quickly hit the Top 25 in Family Games on iTunes. Since then, Ai's company has been featured in *The Economist*, *Forbes* and *Fortune*.

For Ai, however, it has never been about the recognition. "I can empathize with the 25 million kids in the U.S. today who are overweight or obese," Ai said. "I've been there. I know what it feels like to go through what they go through at home and school."

Ai and his staff are now preparing for the launch of their new app, Moku Island. It is a collection of educational iPad games designed to help kids practice key skills like spelling, vocabulary and math. His first app went after Sound Body; now Ai's tackling Sound Mind.

Genetics researcher has science and SigEp in his DNA

By **VIKASH REDDY**, Dartmouth '05

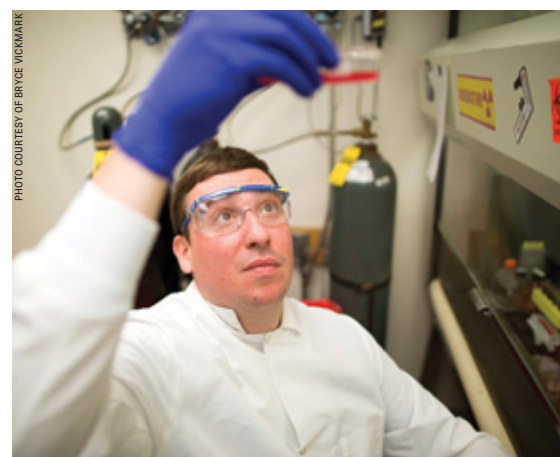
"Malaria kills between 500,000 and one million children each year," said **Jeff Wagner**, **Dartmouth '06**, "but it's a problem we can address." Wagner, who recently received his Ph.D. in biological engineering from MIT, is the lead author on a recent paper describing a new technique for genome editing in the malaria parasite, "*Plasmodium falciparum*." The technique, which allows researchers to "cut and paste" nearly anywhere in the parasite genome, will dramatically speed up the process of identifying the functions of specific genes. "While this is not in itself a new drug or treatment," explained Wagner, "it will allow future researchers to identify new drug targets and potential vaccination strategies far more efficiently than they can now."

When he arrived at MIT, Wagner knew his time in graduate school presented him with a rare opportunity to focus on the research about which he was passionate.

He began working with Assistant Professor Jacquin Niles and fellow SigEp **Isaac Businger**, MIT '11, an undergraduate research assistant, on developing new methods for genetics engineering in the malaria parasite. In September 2014, Wagner began a post-doctoral fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health developing vaccination strategies for tuberculosis.

Wagner began his genetics research with professors at Dartmouth in 2004, the same year he joined SigEp. "I've always been a bit of a genetics geek," said Wagner, "and it was great to get so much encouragement, not just from professors, but from my brothers too." During his SigEp days, Wagner "loved being around and learning from so many smart, talented people." Wagner has maintained close friendships with several of his brothers and noted, "I was really touched when several of them flew into town to attend my doctoral defense."

"To this day, I am inspired by the work that my brothers are doing," Wagner said.



Wagner searches for answers in his genetics engineering lab that will curb malaria.

"Whether it's social science research on education or power-grid problem-solving, SigEps are doing important and interesting things that are improving the world."

Undergrad leads Miami non-profit to help youth learn leadership skills

By **TOM JELKE**, Florida International '90

By the time **Philip Koenig, Florida International '15**, joined SigEp in 2011, he was already an established leader. In fact, he was a developer of leaders. Koenig was a sophomore in high school and class president when he created a lesson plan that covered the fundamentals of leadership for his class. "I read a great deal of Tom Peters and John Maxwell, and that was the inspiration for what I was trying to teach."

Koenig's leadership lesson plan focused on communication skills, public speaking, problem solving, team management and social responsibility. His team saw immediate improvements in how they worked together, dissected and dealt with issues and problems, and communicated with others. "There was a notable difference in our entire team dynamic, and I believed these same lessons could be taught with similar results to younger emerging leaders."

That year, Koenig founded Leading Miami (www.leadingmiami.org), a non-profit organization that offers leadership training workshops and mentorship for middle school students. Their mission is "to provide the youth of Miami with fundamental leadership skills that will empower them to succeed in their futures." Since 2009, Leading Miami has grown to a team of 35 of Miami's most well-rounded young leaders with Koenig as its executive director. They



have educated and empowered over 1,000 students and provided over 200 workshops for the community. Koenig has presented at TEDx Youth Miami and TEDx FIU, and has received accolades from the Miami Herald and U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Koenig has also become an integral leader in the Florida Nu Chapter, serving as vice president of recruitment and currently as the Sigma Challenge coordinator. He has participated in EDGE, Carlson Leadership Academy, Tragos

Quest to Greece and Life After College. "Joining SigEp was a no-brainer for me. The Balanced Man philosophy is an extension of the things I believe make a great leader and a great man. The guys I have met are inspirational and extremely supportive. They have made me even more adamant about the concepts of mentorship, continuous development and balance as key factors in leadership development," Koenig said. "I am humbled and proud to be a part of such a great organization."



Koenig is on a mission to empower Miami's youth with leadership skills and is a frequent guest speaker. Here he shares his ideas during a TEDx talk on his campus, Florida International.

"The Balanced Man philosophy is an extension of the things I believe make a great leader, and a great man."



SigEp brothers Matthew Ho (pictured) and John Brieger designed an international festival to win Walt Disney Imagineering's 2014 "Imaginations" competition.

Disney design winners show the promise of cultural collaboration

By KEVIN LYNCH, Maryland-College Park '08

Carnegie Mellon brothers **Matthew Ho**, '14, and **John Brieger**, '14, are two of Disney's youngest creative minds. In January the pair found themselves on the winning team of Walt Disney Imagineering's "Imaginations" competition.

The competition, sponsored by the design and development arm for Walt Disney Theme Parks, called on students to transform a densely populated urban area. The SigEp brothers' submission, "Antipode," designed a cultural exchange festival held at opposite ends of the Earth: Lima, Peru and Bangkok, Thailand.

Determined to be different

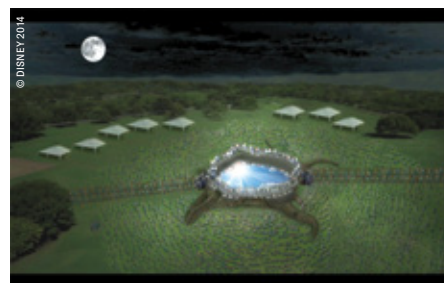
Ho's childhood trips to Disneyland fostered a lifelong interest in Imagineering that led him to Carnegie Mellon's architecture program. In college, Ho became a mentor to Brieger, who shared his design interests. The two resolved to compete in the Imaginations competition together, and teamed up with fellow classmates Angeline Chen and Christina Brant to form their design team.

Brieger said that SigEp helped inform their project. Their chapter brings together men from diverse backgrounds, and they knew cultural exchange could be a transformative experience.

Ho and Brieger appreciated that their brothers were excited about the project. They critiqued their presentations, provided feedback and helped them polish their interview skills for the competition. One brother with extended family in Lima, even helped the team with the design and placement of the project's proposed installation.

Brieger said that his college years have broadened his cultural intelligence and shown him the value of embracing people of different cultures. The aim for "Antipode" was to share that experience with the world.

In the year after their win, Ho has continued to dream up new ideas alongside Disney's Imagineers through a yearlong internship with the company. Brieger, who will graduate this December, plans to return to Apple Inc., where he has spent the past two summers working in interaction design.



(Top) A still from the project proposal shows a live video conference between Lima, Peru and Bangkok, Thailand. (Bottom) Disney Imagineer mentors flank the winning team. From left: Jason Cooper, Christina Brant, Angeline Chen, John Brieger, Matthew Ho and Mike Honeck.

The aim for "Antipode" was to show two cities the immense value in their differences, and the important ways that they are the same.

Discovering brotherhood



Loyola Marymount SigEps join their beloved faculty fellow and brother, Father William Fulco, at the Sacred Heart Chapel to celebrate his 60 years as a Jesuit.

Father William Fulco, Loyola Marymount Renaissance, is a highly-decorated National Endowment for the Humanities professor of ancient Mediterranean studies at the university. Fulco had already given much of his time and talents to these men as a faculty advisor and long-time volunteer, yet this journey of brotherhood had just begun.

Fulco's archaeology course has become popular with SigEps over the years—some jokingly refer to it as a "SigEp course." In fact, the chapter worked with the university to tie the curriculum into their Residential Learning Community (RLC), to bridge the experience from classroom to fraternity life. The university was enthusiastic about this move, stating the goals and ideals of SigEp closely resemble that of the university.

Fulco then elevated the course to a real hands-on experience. He orchestrated a journey for students to participate in an archaeological dig at Megiddo in Israel, identified as one of the world's most important biblical cities. Every other year, Fulco helps send students on this unique expedition.

In partnership with Tel Aviv University, these fortunate men

"Get not your friends by bare compliments, but by giving them sensible tokens of your love."

~ SOCRATES

By **MICHAEL MCDOWELL**, Nevada-Reno '03

Throughout history, SigEp brothers have discovered that the bonds of fraternal love are built through shared experiences. These experiences offer profound growth and enlightenment whether they are in the classroom or in our communities across the globe. For SigEps at Loyola Marymount, the pursuit of brotherhood led them to a monumental archaeological dig 7,500 miles away from campus, and a significant discovery in their own backyard, as well.

spend three weeks excavating precious artifacts in this holy site. None are archaeology majors; they simply enjoy the adventure and the opportunity to grow and experience life. The endeavor is a precious artifact of its own.

In addition to masterminding the trip, Fulco spends countless hours personally raising funds (nearly \$2,500 per participant) for the trip, so these men can make the trek. He is driven by a deep sense of love and brotherhood for his chapter. Fulco's colleagues always see a SigEp or two in his office. The SigEps share their lives, their joys and their sorrows with him.

"They are the reason I wake up in the morning," Fulco expressed. "I truly love them. I find it thrilling to see the men do wonderful things and see them have new experiences."

They return his brotherly love. Last year, Fulco underwent life-threatening kidney surgery. His Fraternity brothers never left his side as he recovered.

"SigEps would sleep on the hospital floor all night," recalled Fulco. "They would hold my hand at night. They would care for me. They were so nurturing."

As much as it meant to Fulco to have the chapter's support, it was equally meaningful to his broth-

ers to be there in his time of need. Several chapter members got tattoos of Fulco's signature. Upon learning about this, Fulco decided to return the sentiment. He tattooed all of their initials on his chest.

From the rubble of ancient Israeli sites to the quiet of hospital rooms, Fulco and his chapter's undergraduates invested in one another. They embraced academia and personal growth. They found brotherhood in a great diversity of experiences. The connection across them all is shared learning, learning from the past, learning from each other and learning from adversity. That's what life and brotherhood are about.



The excavation crew digs deeper at the archaeological site of Megiddo, Israel.

Service connects Bentley brothers even after chapter's closure

By **MICHAEL SELBY**, Eastern Michigan '02, and **KYLE GALLAGHER**, West Chester '13

How would you celebrate a milestone birthday? Imagine you're turning 40, and your brothers want to celebrate along with you. Perhaps you meet at a nice restaurant, or head to your favorite sports venue for a game. But if you're **Eric Bull**, '95, and his brothers from Bentley, you're heading to the Dominican Republic to volunteer with a dozen of your best friends.

Two decades after graduating, the men from Bentley are closer than ever. This connection has remained strong even in the face of their chapter's closure.

The closing of a chapter can be incredibly difficult, especially for alumni. Although their chapter could no longer welcome them at homecoming or on game days, brotherhood never faded for Bull and his brothers.

What started as an e-mail among brothers became a service trip to SunCampDR in the Dominican Republic.

"Let's get away to celebrate our 40th birthdays ... and let's help some people in a big way while we do," wrote Bull. The SunCampDR organization, located in Puerto Plata, assists less fortunate children, specifically Haitian refugees.

The 12 brothers arrived at the camp with 15 large suitcases bulging with baseball gloves, bats, shoes, soccer balls, footballs, not to mention a set of golf clubs. They brought art supplies, books, necklace-making kits, clothes and stuffed animals. **Jeff Solomon**, '96, had 70 children's t-shirts made with the Balanced Man logo on the front and the number 34 emblazoned on the back to honor Dominican-American baseball player David Ortiz. The men played soccer with the kids, carried them atop their shoulders and were touched by their smiles.

"It was an amazing, rewarding experience that I will never forget," said **Joshua Prost**, '95. There has already



Bentley alumni brought 15 large suitcases filled with sporting gear and art supplies for Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic to celebrate their 40th birthdays.

been talk about going back, perhaps in greater numbers.

Their service is a testament to their first moments in the Fraternity, moments that endure whether a chapter is open or closed. Although the chapter is gone from Bentley's campus, the brothers' values and sense of the Balanced Man Ideal remain very much alive.

Brothers continue to help Hurricane Sandy victims rebuild

By **CONNOR BRUSO**, Maryland-College Park '15

The memory of Hurricane Sandy has started to fade for some, but not for the brothers of Maryland-College Park. For the past two winters, the undergraduates have volunteered to assist communities still grappling with the effects of the 2012 storm. Partnering with organizations in northern New Jersey, brothers have continued to help restore and rebuild condemned homes.

"It's an incredible experience being able to help families finally gain a sense of normalcy," said **Chris Frye**, '16.

"I feel that we've really made a difference in those communities." Over the course of both trips, members were involved in tasks such as demolition, insulation, drywall installation and painting.

The winter trip is part of the chapter's initiative to increase brothers' opportunities for service. "We really believe that the most good comes from direct involvement with people," said Chapter President **Danny Wolf**, '15. "Not only do we create a beneficial impact, but we learn about issues facing the community. It's so much more meaningful than raising some dollar figure for a philanthropy event."

For questions regarding this trip, or how to plan your own, contact the chapter at vpcomm.mdbeta@gmail.com.



Jake Brintzenhofe, '16, strips a damaged home down to its bones.



Maryland-College Park brothers unfurl the SigEp flag after a long day of serving Hurricane Sandy victims.

"It's so much more meaningful than raising some dollar figure for a philanthropy event."



Over 1,000 men have passed through the red doors of the "White Castle."



East Tennessee State alumni Herb Donaldson, '74 (left), and Tim Shaw, '75 (right), present University President Dr. Brian Noland, West Virginia '91, with a 60th anniversary polo.

SigEp marks 60 years at East Tennessee State

By BARBARA ELLIOTT

In 1954, the Tennessee Gamma Chapter became the first national fraternity to charter at East Tennessee State and remains the premier fraternity on campus.

Sixty years later, celebrations began with a campus-wide, all-Greek reunion.

Seventy alumni gathered at the annual meeting to remember highlights of the past sixty years and plan for the future. Lunch was catered at the affectionately named "White Castle," the chapter house since 1959. Over 1,000 men have passed through its red doors, including a number of family legacies. House tours were extra special for the men who had lived there as they met the current occupants of their old rooms.

The main event took place at the Millennium Centre on Saturday night with

over 130 alumni and their guests joining 45 undergraduates and their dates. The celebration was attended by two charter members, Denny Brewer, '54, and William Sikes, '57, and five other brothers from the chapter's first decade: Ben Earnest, '59, Joe Henley, '65, Bill Frank, '65, John Albright, '66, and Preston Wright, '64. Throughout the weekend, alumni from all six decades gave undergraduates a firsthand view of SigEp's "Lifetime Responsibility of Brotherhood."

A century of brotherhood celebrated at Missouri

By COLE KENNEDY, Missouri '16

SigEp's Missouri Alpha Chapter celebrated its centennial anniversary, as April 10 rang in one hundred years of uninterrupted operations on the Missouri campus. Alumni from across the decades and across the country returned to reminisce and rekindle fervor for the future of the Fraternity.

Chief Executive Officer Brian Warren, Virginia '04, presented the chapter with a commendation from the National Board of Directors. A banquet on Saturday evening featured undergraduate and alumni speakers. John Hartman, '61, one of Missouri Alpha's three past Grand Presidents, and recipient of the Order of the Golden Heart, arranged the festivities. Two of the chapter's most involved alumni, AVC President Dave LaRusso, '76, and Vice President Vern Smith, '73, were presented with Missouri's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

In the wake of the celebration, the chapter continues to thrive. The passion

for excellence is reflected in the size and caliber of the undergraduate membership, which has grown to one of the largest on campus. The chapter leadership has its sights set on a Buchanan Cup at the next Conclave, and Missouri Alpha is looking forward to fostering another hundred years of Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love.



(Above) Missouri Alpha Chapter members, young and old, gathered from across the country to celebrate 100 years of Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love.



(Left) Several alumni proudly pose with the SigEp flag during the celebration.

Top 5

chapters in each SigEp region

For the Fall 2013 semester the top five chapters in each region, ranked based on how much they exceed their ACA, are listed here.

Region 1

9 out of 14 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 3.27

REGION ONE CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Maine RLC	3.25	0.29	2/18	71
Tufts	3.27	0.26	5/10	58
Stevens Tech RLC	3.46	0.16	1/16	92
Dartmouth	3.54	0.10	1/15	96
Babson	3.24	0.10	3/3	44

Region 2

13 out of 22 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 3.22

REGION TWO CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Virginia Commonwealth	3.00	0.23	3/14	71
Christopher Newport	3.18	0.19	1/8	82
Drexel RLC	3.37	0.19	1/12	102
American	3.38	0.19	2/12	55
West Chester	3.30	0.18	1/11	43

Region 3

10 out of 21 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 3.10

REGION THREE CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
South Carolina	3.53	0.39	1/24	13
Georgia	3.45	0.24	1/25	130
South Florida RLC	3.14	0.18	1/14	47
Florida State	3.16	0.16	1/22	145
Tampa	3.18	0.14	1/6	53

Region 4

14 out of 20 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 3.20

REGION FOUR CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Cincinnati RLC	3.29	0.59	1/20	141
Cleveland State	3.45	0.53	1/4	12
Ohio State RLC	3.49	0.40	1/33	156
Northern Kentucky RLC	3.18	0.35	1/5	72
West Virginia	3.18	0.34	2/19	42

Region 5

14 out of 19 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 3.06

REGION FIVE CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Alabama	3.47	0.40	1/47	90
Southern Mississippi	3.06	0.33	2/11	62
Murray State	3.23	0.29	2/12	70
Louisville	3.26	0.29	2/14	75
Jacksonville State	2.86	0.26	2/6	30

Region 6

13 out of 19 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA 3.13

REGION SIX CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Lawrence Tech RLC	2.86	0.56	4/8	54
Monmouth RLC	3.24	0.39	1/5	33
Indiana RLC	3.52	0.39	1/32	146
Valparaiso RLC	3.33	0.32	1/8	76
Ball State	3.11	0.22	2/12	62

All data reflects Fall 2013 semester



Athletic

Conference Breakdown

This chart pits different athletic conferences against each other. It displays which conferences are contributing the strongest grades and highest manpower across the country. We also recognize the school in each conference that has the highest overall GPA and which is highest above their ACA.

Conference	# of Schools	Conference GPA	Total Manpower	Highest above ACA	Highest GPA
Ivy	5	3.51	417	Dartmouth	Yale
University Athletic	6	3.29	381	Case Western RLC	Case Western RLC
Patriot League	4	3.26	268	American	American
Big Ten	12	3.31	1,331	Ohio State RLC	Northwestern
Pacific 12	11	3.20	1,035	Oregon State RLC	Stanford
Southern	4	3.11	268	Elon RLC	Elon RLC
Atlantic 10	8	3.14	614	Virginia Commonwealth	Saint Louis
Big East	5	3.35	290	Marquette	Georgetown
ACC	12	3.21	964	Maryland-College Park	Duke
Mountain West	3	3.04	352	Nevada-Reno	Nevada-Reno
Conference USA	10	2.90	376	Southern Mississippi	Tulane
Big 12	10	3.12	1,189	West Virginia	Kansas State
Missouri Valley	7	3.06	493	Wichita State	Drake RLC
Colonial	5	3.23	410	Drexel RLC	Drexel RLC
Mid-American	8	3.06	489	Ball State	Toledo RLC
Big Sky	5	3.10	239	Montana State RLC	Montana State RLC
SEC	11	3.08	992	South Carolina	South Carolina
Southland	3	2.93	135	Central Arkansas	Central Arkansas and Lamar (tie)
Ohio Valley	9	2.96	463	Murray State	Murray State
Big West	5	3.00	390	California-Riverside	California-Santa Barbara
The American	5	3.18	381	Cincinnati RLC	Cincinnati RLC



REGION SEVEN CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Nebraska RLC	3.44	0.39	3/24	122
Nebraska-Omaha	3.21	0.29	2/4	74
Wisconsin-Platteville RLC	3.08	0.25	1/9	41
Nebraska-Kearney RLC	3.32	0.25	2/6	73
Missouri S&T	3.20	0.21	2/23	77

Region 7

14 out of 23 schools above ACA, Region GPA of 3.14

REGION EIGHT CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Washburn RLC	3.57	0.55	1/5	27
Fort Hays State	3.03	0.35	1/4	25
Texas A&M	2.99	0.34	7/18	94
Kansas State	3.28	0.31	6/25	94
Central Arkansas	2.97	0.23	2/7	88

Region 8

15 out of 20 schools above ACA, Region GPA of 3.07

REGION NINE CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Oregon State RLC	3.35	0.39	1/17	134
Montana State RLC	3.30	0.34	1/6	53
Minnesota RLC	3.33	0.19	1/29	103
North Dakota RLC	3.17	0.17	1/13	47
Washington	3.35	0.11	6/33	105

Region 9

6 out of 8 schools above ACA, Region GPA of 3.15

REGION TEN CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Arizona	3.27	0.33	1/21	53
San Diego	3.43	0.27	1/6	62
California-Riverside	3.03	0.22	1/9	71
Nevada-Reno	3.05	0.22	N/A	103
San Diego State RLC	3.04	0.17	1/11	172

Region 10

13 out of 18 schools above ACA, Region GPA of 3.11

**THIS
FRATERNITY
WILL BE
DIFFERENT**

**ITS PURPOSE
SHALL BE:**

**ENCOURAGE
LITERATURE
AND
EDUCATION**

**INTENSIFY
AND
PERPETUATE
FRIENDSHIP**

**BUILDING OF
A NOBLE AND
PURE
MANHOOD**

**LIVING THE
RITUAL**

ACCOUNTABILITY

**THE
BALANCED
MAN
PROGRAM**

**EQUAL RIGHTS
AND
RESPONSIBILITIES**

**SERVICE
LEARNING**

**FELLOW
CHALLENGE**

**BIG BROTHERS
BIG SISTERS**

**RESIDENTIAL
LEARNING
COMMUNITIES**

**NATIONAL
HOUSING
CORPORATION**

**PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT
SERVICES**

**EQUITY
MANAGEMENT
FUND**

**CHAPTER
INVESTMENT
FUND**

**LLC
PROGRAM**

**HOUSING
LOAN
FUND**

**BOARD OF
GOVERNORS**

**WILLIAM
LAZELL
PHILLIPS
FOUNDATION**

**ADVANCE
THE SIGEP
EXPERIENCE**

**LEGACY
SOCIETY**

**1901
CLUBS**

**THE
BALANCED
MAN
IDEAL**

**BALANCED
MAN
SCHOLARSHIP**

**365-DAY
RECRUITMENT**

**RECRUIT,
RETAIN AND
GRADUATE
BALANCED
MEN**

**THETA
UPSILON
OMEGA
MERGER**

**UNCLE BILLYS
WESTWARD
EXPANSION**

**REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP
ACADEMIES**

**CARLSON
LEADERSHIP
ACADEMIES**

**CONTINUOUS
DEVELOPMENT**

**RUCK
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE**

**NEW
MEMBER
CAMP**

**TRAGOS
QUEST TO
GREECE**

EDGE

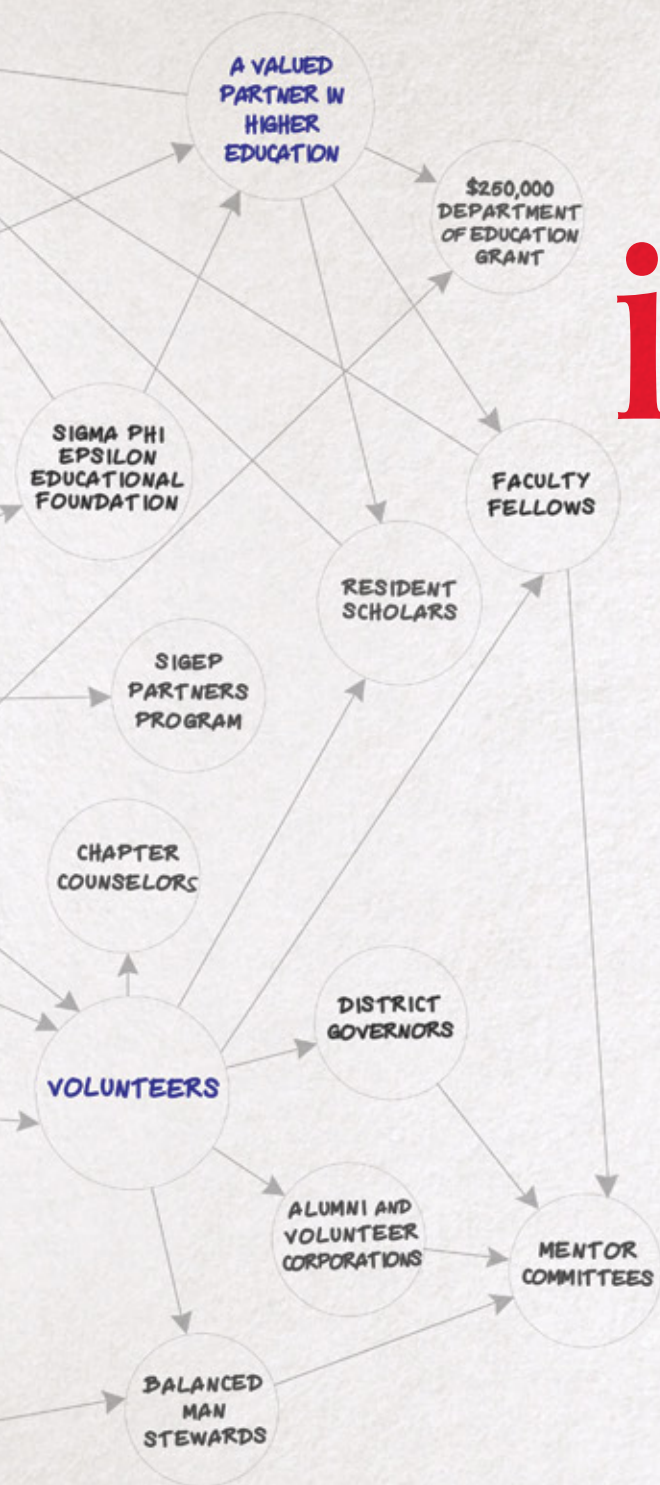
**LIFE
AFTER
COLLEGE**

**GRAND
CHAPTER
CONCLAVE**

**OPEN
ACCEPTANCE
OF BROTHERS
REGARDLESS OF
SEXUAL
ORIENTATION**

**MEMBERSHIP
RESTRICTIONS
ABOLISHED**

**SPONSORSHIP OF
UNDERPRIVILEGED
BOYS CAMPS**



A TRADITION OF innovation

Driven by the words of their Founders, SigEps have been innovating to provide the best fraternity experience for more than 113 years. Today's brothers continue the tradition. They're raising the collective standard, reimagining the fraternity house, developing freshmen before they join, serving remote regions of the world, and helping brothers defy employment trends that have plagued the early work years of the Millennial Generation.

Bridging divides



By **BEAUX CARRIERE**, Charleston '10

The only thing thicker than the crowd of brothers seated around him is his accent. His Tennessee drawl is marked by long vowels that pair well with unhurried narratives of days gone by. To this college-aged crowd, the voice of **Steve Shanklin, Murray State '70**, seems to carry with it the weight and memories of SigEp's Founders.

The scene is the 2013 Dallas Conclave. Shanklin is sharing stories about colorful characters from SigEp's past, suspender-wearing Fraternity men with a taste for whiskey and cigars. The gang erupts in laughter as Shanklin nails his punch line.

They've let their guard down, and Shanklin knows it. He shifts to a story of brotherhood that penetrates the soul, reminding his young audience of the Fraternity's emotional power.

This experience is reproduced at nearly every event Shanklin attends. He's become an unofficial historian in a fraternity filled with official titles. Exceedingly humble, Shanklin is quick to diminish his own importance; but his life's work has put him at the center of some of the most critical moments of SigEp's last half-century.

An accountant with a preacher's gift, Shanklin has made SigEp his ministry for over four decades. He often speaks of standing on the shoulders of giants, and he's certainly met his share. Though he has worked alongside Founders and national program namesakes, perhaps Shanklin's greatest gift has been bridging generational divides. He started in college and continues today, connecting brothers across the decades and pushing the newest generation to further SigEp's journey of innovation.

Living values

Forty-seven years ago, a young Shanklin initially rejected fraternity membership at Murray State, a decision quite common for the day. The Vietnam War raged; U.S. casualties were skyrocketing; fraternities were struggling to keep members. The stakes were simply higher.

"If you had a bad test, you had more than just a bad semester," Shanklin remembers, alluding to the risk of losing draft deferment, which kept college students on campus and out of Southeast Asia.

But Shanklin did eventually join a fraternity. It was a local fraternity with big dreams of becoming more. His chapter brothers recognized the importance of a national affiliation and footprint, but they struggled to find a group that shared their values.

"It was my responsibility to find a national fraternity to affiliate our local with," Shanklin explains. "And that was the first chance I had to look at not just a fraternity, but fraternities as a whole." He remembers feeling that values had become social relics for many fraternities.

The men at Murray State eventually found SigEp and went on to become the fifth chapter in the state of Kentucky. They were impressed by the Fraternity's ability to make turn-of-the-century

values relevant for a new generation of students.

"We chose Sigma Phi Epsilon, not for what it was, but for what it stood for, and what we felt ... as a local fraternity, was the potential for the future," Shanklin recalls. "When most

national fraternities had pledge manuals, our book was referred to as 'Educating for Brotherhood.' They had pledge trainers; ours were pledge educators. You train animals—you educate people."

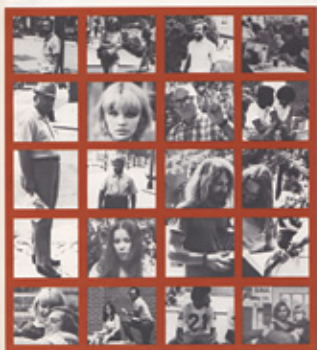
"A breath of fresh air"

Fresh out of school and with a draft number still not called up, Shanklin enlisted instead with the national Fraternity as a 'staff representative,' a position later called regional director. It was a strange time for America, and SigEp was not immune from the turbulence.

"We had a lot of problems with young men who were searching, really searching to find themselves and a sense of value in the world," Shanklin remembers.

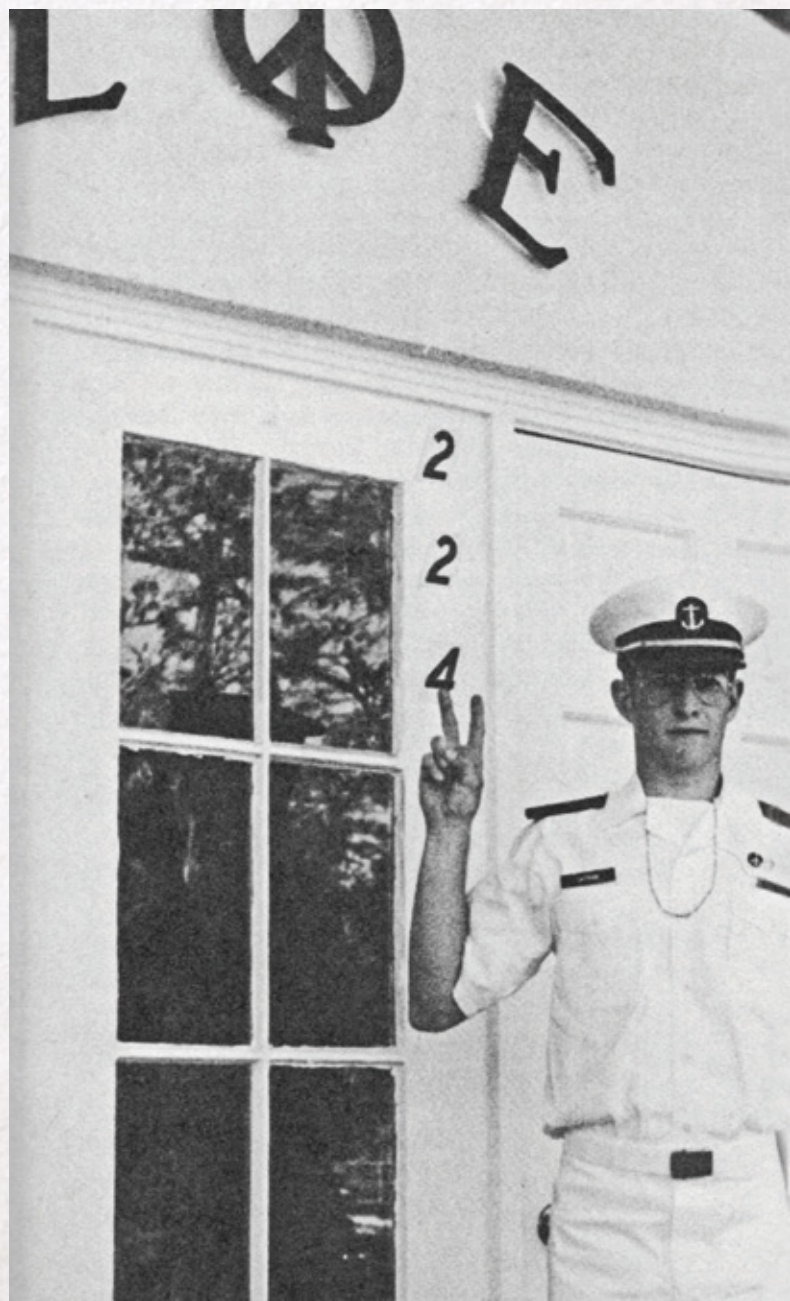
"They had pledge trainers—ours were pledge educators. You train animals—you educate people."

THE SIGMA PHI EPSILON
JOURNAL
FALL 1971



LIFE STYLES IN CONFLICT
Page 6

(Above) The 1971 Fall Journal cover portrayed the conflict of the era. Within the Fraternity, brothers were working to find common ground. A SigEp in Navy uniform (right) offers a token of peace in front of the Oregon State chapter house.



"McCaul stood up very carefully, and with his cane, put his dinner napkin on to the top ... a red napkin, that he swirled in the air. It was like throwing gas onto a flame. You could feel the thundering of feet in the room, stomping in the applause."

To survive, SigEp and men like Shanklin would need to innovate, starting at the top. From 1967 to 1971, "the top" meant Grand President **Edward Zollinger, William & Mary '27**, the only SigEp to serve two consecutive terms in the role.

"Zollinger would use us as sounding boards," says Shanklin. "He would come to us for facts and opinions ... and say, 'Tell us what you really think.'"

Zollinger genuinely listened to the younger and increasingly disenfranchised generation. Despite his status as an IBM executive, he made time for these brothers. He and his wife, Lucille, drove many miles to visit with chapters, listening and reassuring young men that SigEp's values were still relevant. His philosophy and humble work ethic trickled down to the Headquarters staff.

Shanklin remembers proudly that Fraternity Insider, an inter-fraternal publication of the era, "said we were, I think they used the term, 'a breath of fresh air' ... the most aggressive and energetic staff any fraternity had ever put on the road." Shanklin also remembers the leadership of Chapter Services Director **Chuck White, Western Michigan '62**. "White was a real innovator. If he couldn't think of it himself, he'd provoke others to come up with ideas that would push the Fraternity forward," Shanklin says. "Zollinger and White really pushed us from one of the also-rans, a not-so-bad fraternity, into a major force in the fraternity world."

The 1971 Atlanta Conclave occurred amidst the national discontent and halfway through Shanklin's staff tenure. It was an event White described as the "tail-end of our critical period." Those late summer days would bear witness to a changing of the guard.

That Conclave, SigEp's last surviving founder, **Thomas Vaden McCaul, Richmond 1903**, addressed an assembly of brothers that Shanklin remembers as exhibiting "the conflict in society. Fellows with hair down past their shoulders, guys with high and tight haircuts; it was the face of society in Sigma Phi Epsilon."

McCaul, "quite frail and unable to hear," needed help to the podium, Shanklin recalls. "He thanked the men for helping make our Fraternity what it was today, and as you might expect, challenged them to do even more in the future."



(Above) Thomas Vaden McCaul was the last surviving SigEp Founder at the 1971 Atlanta Conclave. He challenged brothers to continue the Fraternity's progress. (Left) Grand President Edward Zollinger opens Conclave legislation that same year.



Shanklin remembers an applause that lasted 20 minutes: "Young men were standing on tables, cheering, hoisting others up on to their shoulders."

What happened next would be a moment frozen in SigEp history. "McCaul stood up very carefully, and with his cane, put his dinner napkin on to the top ... a red napkin, that he swirled in the air. It was like throwing gas onto a flame," Shanklin smiles. "You could feel the thundering of feet in the room, stomping in the applause." Different haircuts, same values.

That Conclave, McCaul's last, also marked the election of the first Student Directors to the Fraternity's National Board. SigEp had built a bridge to the next generation.

Turning a Corner

Shanklin followed his year on the road with one volunteer role after the next.

"Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Arkansas, Indiana, North Carolina, Missouri," Shanklin pauses. "If I didn't mention Illinois, I should." He has worked with so many chapters it's hard to keep track.

Shanklin has lots of fond memories from his early years as a volunteer, but things started to change in the 1980s. The economy had improved, and SigEp benefitted from the stability. Still, Shanklin saw something much darker.

"We had a lot of young men who were still being hazed in chapters, and young men who would put up with almost anything rather than suffer the social stigma of removing themselves from membership," Shanklin says. "Unfortunately some young men took their own lives to avoid the abuse."

Shanklin knew SigEp had found its next big challenge. He was not alone. **Donald McCleary, Texas-Austin '71**, who traveled alongside Shanklin in the Vietnam days, was now Grand

President. McCleary established SigEp's Committee on Self-Esteem to investigate the problem. Their conclusion: the pledge process was broken. However it happened, pledging had become antithetical to SigEp values.

At the 1991 Conclave, undergraduates weighed in. They agreed and issued a mandate for the transformation of the pledging process. Past Grand President and inter-fraternal leader **Frank Ruck, Michigan '46**, accepted the challenge and formed a new task force—the Committee on Pledge Transformation. Shanklin was invited to join.

"I went there with some biases," Shanklin admits, speaking about the committee's initial summit in Boulder, Colo.

Often going to bat for the underdog, the forgotten chapter or the disenfranchised member, Shanklin was reluctant to jump to conclusions until every side had been heard. Ultimately, he admits, the answer came down to core values.

"We were trying to recapture the spirit of the Founders," Shanklin explains. "There were no pledges back in those days. They sought an association ... based on a set of common values and appreciation. And they literally taught each other by being with each other."

The committee developed the Balanced Man Program, and by 1993 Conclave delegates had adopted it as SigEp's new development model.



Shanklin shares a lesson in SigEp history during the 2014 Ruck Leadership Institute.

Breaking Through

The heat index is an unbearable 99, and again Shanklin is surrounded by a hoard of brothers. He stands by a lake at the center of the University of Richmond campus during the 2014 Ruck Leadership Institute. He calls the water a metaphor for the great distance that SigEp has traveled since 1901.

Mid-thought, Shanklin pauses. "Follow me," he says, before racing up a hill and through a tree line. The men are thrown by the sudden detour and stand still.

Eventually, they follow and find Shanklin through the brush. He's standing in a reproduction of a Greek amphitheater. It's a stage for university plays, but the significance is clear. The men realize this is no detour.



"Sometimes the path to the pinnacle of the Greek world is not the one anybody else sees," Shanklin tells them. *"It's the one of possibility that somebody dares to see."*

Shanklin smiles at the familiar look on their faces. Perhaps it reminds him of his own feelings when he first followed Frank Ruck in the early days of the Balanced Man Program.

"Sometimes the path to the pinnacle of the Greek world is not the one anybody else sees," Shanklin tells them. "It's the one of possibility that somebody dares to see. Somebody like Frank Ruck, who was the spirit behind the Balanced Man Project."

Shanklin knows that if SigEp is to continue pushing onward, a new generation will need to reach across the divide to learn from the past and rise up to the challenges of today.

"Here's where I step back and ask you the question," Shanklin says. "What's that next big thing that will help us raise expectations for us and for all of the fraternity world?"

"That's not a rhetorical question," Shanklin says. "What do you plan to do?"



One brick and one balanced man at a time

Cincinnati Chapter builds the house of the future

By **KYLE ARGENBRIGHT**, Nebraska '05

During a 30-plus-year term as his chapter's AVC president, Order of the Golden Heart Recipient **John Abraham**, Cincinnati '77, presided over the construction of a powerhouse chapter through incremental, innovative improvements. Now he's helping build a chapter house to match.

As the creator of the Balanced Man Scholarship in 1986, the Cincinnati Chapter brought year-round recruitment to the campus. The chapter was an early adopter of the Balanced Man Program in 1997, though the designation was more of a formality as they were already running a chapter under the philosophies of the program.

In 2004, Ohio Theta became one of SigEp's first Residential Learning Communities. The foundation of a high-performing Balanced Man Program combined with increased faculty involvement "lit a fire" in the chapter, according to Abraham. Manpower was regularly increasing, GPA was consistently high, and the chapter was viewed as one of the top student organizations on campus.

The chapter's strength and size during the previous decades was bearing fruit in the form of a talented bench of volunteers. "These weren't just average guys, they were Buchanan Cup guys from the last 30 years. Architects, engineers and big business guys," said Abraham. These volunteers were recruited gradually by matching volunteer interests to organizational needs. Abraham learned the art of volunteer recruitment from men like **Phil Shepardson**, '68, who preceded him as AVC president and continued to volunteer after passing the gavel. "We break up the roles into small responsibilities, otherwise it becomes a job. Volunteering should be a hobby," explained



(From left) Dean Lutton, John Abraham and Rey Medina work together to build a facility that matches the lasting strength of Ohio Theta.

Some advice from the guy who prefers SigEp volunteer work to golf? "Don't let it become overwhelming to you, you'll burnout and leave. Let some things go. Pace yourself."

The students matter."

The university was on a building spree, and peer fraternities were upgrading. In the meantime, the chapter had grown to over 125 men and continued to expand and diversify its programming. Ohio Theta was ready. The AVC recruited **Dean Lutton, '01**, as the project architect. Aside from his design expertise, Lutton knew the chapter well. Originally recruited through the Balanced Man Scholarship, Lutton valued the chapter's culture and innovative programming. "It was going to be difficult to maintain our position at the top without a facility to match," said Lutton.

Abraham. This strategy enabled the AVC to achieve a level of sophistication that caused their bankers to ask for spreadsheet lessons.

Despite the chapter's strong operational footing, the facility had a foundation that was beginning to crack. The needs became obvious, and Abraham, along with the AVC, wanted to uphold their standards for managing the ambitious project with the same precision they held for chapter operations. They began by purchasing an adjacent property that included an apartment building. That allowed them to learn how to manage a larger facility. SigEp National Housing staff challenged them to think even bigger. "They told us we weren't thinking big enough," recalled Abraham.

The AVC took the strategy they used to build a successful chapter and applied it to the facility design process. They began by looking at trends in local and national student housing. "The university is our housing competitor," said Abraham. In the competition, they saw more individual living space and more privacy. They also saw an opportunity to innovate by providing additional academic space including classrooms, faculty office space and student meeting rooms that would soon host classes for brothers as well as members of sororities. "It's like our own little campus," said Faculty Fellow and Balanced Man Steward **Ric Sweeney, Renaissance**. "At the end of the day, our goal is to be a partner in higher education."

Along the way, a shocking twist necessitated an all-call to Ohio Theta's talented volunteers. Abraham learned he had cancer. "It was God's way of telling me to hand the torch off," he remembered. As a result, he stepped back as a "utility player," and **Rey Medina, '99**, took the reins as AVC president. Medina had served as chapter president and was mentored by Abraham during his time as an undergraduate.

"We always reiterate that good chapters work together through adversity," said Medina. Despite a facility in mid-construction, the chapter just recruited 49 new members, the largest fall recruitment in the chapter's history. Even a sudden change in AVC leadership failed to slow them down—the facility that will propel the chapter into the future is nearly complete. And Abraham is now cancer free.

Beyond the building lies a model of SigEp sustainability and a determination to impact generations of students, one brick and one balanced man at a time.

A pledge to help you succeed

By TYLER BOGGESS, Drake '10

A pledge was once an oath a man made to his fraternity, not a status of membership and certainly not a member of lesser value. When he took that oath, another commitment was made: his brothers promised to help him develop throughout college.

SigEp's Balanced Man Program restored these ideas, and today *a pledge is once again a commitment between men.* But what would happen if a fraternity committed to the development of students before they became members? Two and a half years ago, SigEps at Ohio State asked that very question. The answer gave rise to an innovation that has the potential to change the way SigEps everywhere look at recruitment and the freshman experience.



The Ohio State Chapter's innovative lecture series was developed after former Chapter President Matt Littman, '14, encouraged brothers to build on the success of the Balanced Man Program.

The Ohio Gamma Chapter's Balanced Man Success Series is built to aid in the development of both potential and current chapter members. "It allows us as a deferred recruitment chapter to start developing potential members in the fall before they join," said Chapter President Christopher John, '16, who sees many benefits to the program. A series of fall seminars on various topics is held at the chapter facility and on-campus. Sessions range from Ohio State basketball star, Aaron Craft, speaking on the secrets behind his success to SigEp alumni Michael Repasky, Ohio State '08, and Sean Anthony, Dartmouth '06, facilitating seminars on goal setting and professionalism. The chapter also brought in the Ohio State vice president for student life to speak on leading with integrity.

Chapter leaders use the Balanced Man Scholarship, a program that happens in

tandem with the Success Series, to build their freshmen invitation list. They plan most of the seminars to coincide with chapter meetings, making it easier for brothers to attend.

Toward the end of most seminars, attendees break into groups of five to 10 freshmen and two to three brothers called cohorts. Brothers then lead a discussion or activity that builds on what they just learned.

Chapter Counselor Don Stenta, '01, views it as an important way for the Fraternity to bring values to the forefront. "I think it brings the BMP to life. The whole program is geared toward making first year students as successful as possible—it activates our values."



“The key is to keep company only with people who uplift you, whose presence calls forth your best.”

~ EPICTETUS

The Success Series makes a strong first impression with potential new members. Mike Sliman, '17, was one of the many attendees who ended up joining the chapter. “It gave me the mindset that this is something I'd want to be a part of,” he said.

A tipping point toward brotherhood

Brother Patrick Ferguson, '17, was one of the freshmen who attended the series last year. “I was nervous. I didn't know what to expect. Walking off campus to a fraternity was kind of scary,” Ferguson said.

One seminar that really stuck out to Ferguson was goal-setting. “I started studying for exams two weeks in advance because people were checking in, asking me about my goals, and I got boosts in all my exam scores. They helped me improve myself, and I wasn't even a brother.”

Mike Sliman, '17, also attended the Success Series. He said, “It gave me a great first impression of SigEp. I didn't come in wanting to join a fraternity.”

Ferguson switched his thinking based on the Success Series too. “I met brothers, our values aligned and they were people I could look up to and be like. In the end it was a no-brainer to accept a bid, but I needed the Success Series to really be convinced.”

Chapter President John is quick to point out that the recruitment of new members through the Balanced Man Success Series happens organically. “Some are naturally interested in SigEp and ask questions. We don't preach SigEp much at all. We don't train the cohort leaders with a sales pitch. SigEp is shown through our actions and what we're doing,” he explained.

The SigEp difference

The innovative thinking behind Ohio Gamma's Success Series is the key to the chapter's success. “We're continually

going against the negative connotation fraternities have. We're showing we care about the people on campus and in the community, and we're willing to give our time to better others,” said John.

Chapter Counselor Stenta believes the impact is bigger than SigEp. “We do this development program before they become a member. It changes their first-year experience. And if we end up recruiting them as brothers, they will expect more out of a fraternity.”

The undergraduates and volunteers at Ohio Gamma have made a pledge to the new students and community at Ohio State: to invest in the development of Balanced Men, whether they hold the title of brother or not. That pledge, fulfilled through the Balanced Man Success Series, is now recruiting some of the best men the university has to offer.

“We do this development program before they become a member. *IT CHANGES THEIR FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE.* And if we end up recruiting them as brothers, they will expect more out of a fraternity.”



Chapter Counselor Don Stenta (center) believes the Ohio Gamma's Balanced Man Success Series can change the expectations students have for fraternities.

Finding life in the Amazon

By AARON JAY LEDESMA, Marquette '14

“Life ... you could just feel it,” said Jack Rodenburg, Nebraska '16. “That was the most incredible thing about our journey. Never before had we heard so many insects or birdcalls. We were at the mercy of the rainforest.”

Rodenburg walked silently through the Amazon with his brothers by his side, each step introducing a new experience as they made their way to the Achuar village of Tiinkias.

This band of Nebraska brothers never imagined they would travel abroad together, and certainly never dreamed of journeying so deep into the jungles of the Amazon. Fortunately, they were led by Dean Jacobs, world traveler, former pharmaceutical executive and sharer of the biggest adventures on earth.



Brothers Max Rodenburg, '13 (left), and Jack Rodenburg, '16, are joined by an Achuar child as they explore the Amazon Rainforest. “The Amazon re-shaped my views of the world,” said Rodenburg. “Watching the indigenous people in their own environment gave me an appreciation for the natural beauty of life.”

Two years earlier, Deb Mullen, faculty fellow at the Nebraska Alpha Residential Learning Community invited Jacobs to visit the chapter as a guest lecturer. The men were enthralled by his Amazon adventures and begged for the chance to join him on a future expedition.

In May, Jack Rodenburg, vice president of programming, and nine other brothers got their chance and followed Jacobs on a two-week journey through Ecuador. They would visit with the indigenous tribes and explore the depths of the Amazon Rainforest.

The elements of life

The expedition into the Amazon began in the Andes Mountains. It was there, in the shadow of a dormant volcano, that the brothers found the village of the Caranqui tribe. Though the tribe was more modernized than those they'd meet deep inside the rainforest, they did have their own rich culture they were trying to maintain.

Rodenburg and his brothers experienced the tribe's intimate connection with nature, participating in a ritual unique to the





Deep in the Amazon Rainforest of Ecuador, Joe Gomez, '17, has his face painted by a young Achuar girl in the village of Tiinkias.

Andean people. The group encircled a woodpile and lit the fire from the north, south, east and west. Then, they placed volcanic rocks, called “abuelas,” in the fire. Once the rocks were hot, the villagers took them inside a sweat lodge and splashed water on them, creating steam.

“The whole point is to appreciate and to become one with the earth,” said Rodenburg. “Four rounds of rocks represent the elements: earth, wind, fire and water. Each time they brought a rock in we would say ‘aahoe,’ which is their way of thanking the earth for this experience.”

When they climbed out of the sweat lodge, it felt as if they were taking their first breath of fresh air. “It was inspiring and life-changing,” said Rodenburg. “We lay there on the ground and felt the air and the world around us.”

The ritual was exactly what Jacobs had in mind. “I wanted them to really experience another culture and a different viewpoint of the world,” said Jacobs. “What you’re really touched by is the human connections you have when you visit new places. Typically that takes time to develop. My intention was to create an experience that set up the framework to make that connection happen faster.”

Jacobs’ plan succeeded. The group’s immersion into the Caranqui culture broke the ice for the remainder of the trip. After spending a few short days in the Andes Mountains, the journey to the Amazon began.

Into the deep

“We boarded two small planes and flew off a dirt runway into the Amazon,” said Rodenburg. “All we could see were trees for miles. I’ll never forget that moment. The vastness of the forest overwhelmed me.” Jacobs was taking the men to meet the Achuar, an indigenous people with an ancient Amazonian culture.

Having carried the group as deep into the rainforest as they could, the planes finally landed in the middle of a village. The group embraced the service mission of the trip, and delivered a year’s worth of school supplies during their brief stay in the port village.

“There we met the shaman,” Rodenburg recalled. “He is regarded as having access to, and influence in, the world of good and evil spirits. He welcomed us to the Amazon as we began our

hike to Tiinkias,” an Achuar village in the interior jungle.

With the spirits on their side, Jacobs guided the brothers along a dense forest path that led to the river.

The group guided canoes down the winding waters that led to the village. When they arrived, two rows of children had lined up to welcome them. “They had been standing there for several hours,” Rodenburg said. “They welcomed us and painted our faces the moment we made land.”

The villagers would end their day at nightfall, but the men were too excited to sleep. Lying in open-air huts, only nets

separated them from the Amazon night.

“As soon as the sun went down, another world awakened in the rainforest,” Rodenburg recalled. “It was so loud. Birds, frogs, insects, and who knows what else. The sun went down, but the volume went up. I loved that moment. I just listened until I fell asleep.”

In the days that followed, the group lived and worked alongside the Achuar people. They played with the children and fished in the nearby waters. The Achuar gave the men a new appreciation for life. Seeing people with so little material wealth live such happy lives left a lasting impression on Rodenburg. “Nothing bothered these people,” he said. “All that mattered was being alive. They are the happiest people I’ve ever met.”

The fondness Rodenburg felt was mutual. As the group departed, a village woman gave a heartfelt speech. The translation: “Please come back, please, for we shall not forget you.”

Bringing the journey home

“I gained so much from this trip,” said Rodenburg. “The Amazon reshaped my views of the world. Watching the indigenous people in their own environment gave me an appreciation for the natural beauty of life.”

“Our principles were put into practice every day from the moment we woke up,” said fellow traveler **Daniel Jordan, '15**. “Virtue guided us to help these people and expect nothing in return. Diligence helped us accomplish the tribe’s daily activities like plowing fields, cutting down trees and planting seeds. And brotherly love brought us together throughout the trip. Thirty years from now we will still have this experience.”

What did this journey hold for Jacobs? An opportunity to help young men see with new eyes. “I have been asked several times to lead a group on a trip. I saw a group of men who seemed hungry for an experience that had the potential to change and impact their lives in a positive way. They were mature about it and expressed a willingness to listen and trust. I’m not going to have my own children, but if I were to have a son I would hope he would be like these SigEps.”

Ryan Dressler, Ohio State '08, tells undergraduates that it's up to them to make their dreams a reality.



THERE IS LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

By **ROB JEPSON**, Utah State '12

In 2011, SigEp alumni and volunteers started a conversation about a growing problem in higher education: too many undergraduates—and too many SigEps—were struggling to get good jobs when they graduated.



Marcus Robinson, Dayton '99 (right), leads a session with Brent Osborn, Ohio State '09 (not pictured), on professional networking, presentation and constant improvement.

A recent study by Bentley University had reported that employers weren't impressed with recent graduates, giving colleges a "C" or lower on preparing students for their first jobs. News headlines weren't optimistic either. USA Today reported 54 percent of bachelor's degree holders under 25 were jobless or underemployed, and CNN Money said that half of them were making less than \$25,000 per year.

A task force of alumni-volunteers knew SigEp needed to think creatively and step up to the challenges students were facing.

On March 3, 2012, 75 undergraduates from 12 Southern California chapters gathered at the Marriott Marina del Ray Hotel to pilot a new SigEp leadership event: Life After College.

Alumni and volunteers led undergraduates through a one-day crash course in business etiquette, resume and interview skills, personal finance, and graduate school admissions. They also discussed the softer skills needed to transition effectively to adult life.

The program took off, and two more programs were tested that spring. In the three semesters that followed, Life After College reached 658 students in 10 cities.

In October 2014, an improved two-day Life After College debuted in Detroit, Mich., with beginner and advanced tracks to meet the needs of every brother. The event included a SigEp-exclusive career fair where brothers had the chance to put newly developed skills into action, learn about specific industries and company cultures and meet potential employers.



Undergraduate Jaynish Patel, Grand Valley State '15 (left), discusses career goals with a recruiter from General Motors.



Brent Osborn, Ohio State '09 (right), and Gavin Doll, Wright State '16, discuss choosing a major and navigating the business world.



Volunteer Kay Robinson teaches the basics of meal etiquette at a formal dinner.



Brooks Brothers Client Services & Events Manager Ron Ferguson presents on dressing for success in the workplace.

Realizing our full potential



Dear Brothers and Friends,

This fall, SigEp published its first comprehensive annual report (sigep.org/annualreport) in recent history. This project was a milestone in a continued effort to improve communication with our alumni and friends, and the 2013-2014 school year gave us a lot of exciting news to report.

The generosity of SigEp's donors resulted in the largest Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation grant ever—\$1 million. This grant supports the growth of innovative chapter programs and leadership events, each designed to positively impact a critical element of the out of classroom experience. Today, 90 percent of college takes place outside the walls of a classroom, and SigEp has the ability to forever change the lives of those who spend that 90 percent with us.

Together, these programs and events support a brother's transition to college, his continued academic success, his personal and professional development, and eventually, his transition to life after college. They are helping SigEp attract and retain more men than any other fraternity, and our brothers have achieved the highest GPA in SigEp's history with a 3.15.

Our Founders saw the potential to redefine "fraternity" and provide a transformative college experience. Thanks to the continued support of our donors and volunteers, SigEp is now the No. 1 fraternity and a valued partner in higher education. However, we have a long way to go before we realize our full potential.

SigEp's Founders also believed that the Fraternity could prepare a man for a lifetime of success and happiness. Collegiate accomplishments mean little unless they lead to a more productive life, and today's job market has made the transition to life after college difficult for too many of our brothers.

Preparing our brothers for a lifetime of success

As we enter a new year, studies citing the career struggles of recent graduates are a dime a dozen. Companies say that graduates aren't being prepared for their first jobs; students say they are struggling to find jobs in their fields of study; and meanwhile, student debt has reached shocking levels as wages remain stagnant.

In 2012, SigEp launched an effort to change the odds for our brothers through a new leadership event: Life After College. This two-day event is designed to give undergraduates the life skills and

career insights they need for post-collegiate success. Alumni, volunteers, local business leaders and human resource professionals lead group coaching and one-on-one mentoring sessions. The weekend also includes a SigEp-exclusive career fair where undergraduates meet with potential employers to learn about specific industries and company cultures.

In the last two years Life After College has received an outpouring of support from alumni and volunteers. Colleges and companies across the country are also rallying behind the initiative, which promises to bridge the gap between college and career.

As a result of the program, we've paired 500 undergraduates with career coaches and introduced hundreds more to companies like General Motors, Lockheed Martin, EY, Edward Jones, Merrill Lynch, St. Jude Medical, Pfizer, IBM, LinkedIn, Box, Accenture, Corporate Executive Board, Domino's Pizza, Dot Foods, GEICO, NCAA and Under Armour. They've also met with government agencies like the Senate Finance Committee and the FBI, as well as recruiters from top law schools like Washington in St. Louis and Michigan.

**By the
numbers**
2013-2014

\$1,000,000
Leadership Grant*

\$225,821
Chapter and named
scholarships



New opportunities for alumni

SigEp's career preparedness initiatives have helped us reconnect with alumni across the country. These brothers are volunteering to mentor and coach undergraduates in their careers, and they're also helping us realize that the Fraternity has a much larger role to play in the lives of alumni.

As we work to pair undergraduates with professional mentors, we continue to discover SigEps in every industry and company imaginable. Often we find colleagues who work together daily without knowledge of their shared SigEp connection. Through SigEp's official LinkedIn group, Life After College and 1901 Clubs, the Fraternity is helping alumni make valuable career connections with brothers in their fields. Alumni are finding mentors of their own, identifying new talent for their companies, and taking advantage of personal development opportunities delivered through the more professional and structured alumni-association model of 1901 Clubs.

The Fraternity's values aren't age-specific and neither is the idea of continuous development.

A SigEp is an undergraduate for three to four years, but he is an alumnus for the rest of his life. If the last couple of years have reminded us of anything, it's that the Fraternity's values aren't age-specific and neither is the idea of continuous development.

For 113 years we've asked alumni to stay involved with the Fraternity, but we have struggled to provide opportunities beyond traditional volunteer activities that are sometimes hard to balance with career and family. Today the opportunities to engage are vast, with many requiring little more than one afternoon a year.

Whether you come back to the Fraternity as a professional mentor, as a hiring manager representing your company, as a chapter volunteer, or

simply as a brother looking to connect with others in your industry, the message will be the same: **welcome back!**

Fraternally,

Brian C. Warren Jr.
Virginia '04
Chief Executive Officer
ceo@sigep.net

P.S. You can learn more about these and other opportunities available to alumni at sigep.org/alumni.

\$358,882

Residential Learning
Community grants**

7,911

Leadership event
enrollment

3.15 GPA

15,286

Undergraduate brothers

*Awarded by SigEp's Educational Foundation to support the Fraternity's leadership events and chapter programs.

**RLC grants allow alumni to support housing initiatives, faculty fellow and resident scholar programs, and other academic programs.

TOP 25

Most Improved Recruitment

Rank	School	New Members 7/1/13- 6/30/14	New Members 7/1/12- 6/30/13	Difference
1	Nebraska-Omaha	58	21	37
2	Rhode Island	41	14	27
3	Alabama	46	23	23
4	Iowa	46	27	19
5	North Carolina State	44	25	19
6	Kentucky	29	10	19
7	Valparaiso*	33	15	18
8	Florida State	64	47	17
9	Nevada-Reno	53	36	17
10	Cal State-Northridge	52	35	17
11	California-San Diego	39	22	17
12	Missouri	54	38	16
13	Southeast Missouri State*	46	30	16
14	Syracuse	36	20	16
15	Ohio State*	54	40	14
16	Johns Hopkins	29	15	14
17	Coastal Carolina	25	11	14
18	Indiana*	55	42	13
19	Arizona State	52	40	12
20	Rutgers	31	19	12
21	Georgia Tech*	30	18	12
22	West Chester	30	18	12
23	Western Kentucky	30	18	12
24	Wyoming	29	17	12
25	Toledo*	42	31	11

These chapters showed the greatest improvement in the number of men recruited in the '13-'14 academic year compared to the prior year.

Manpower

Rank	School	Manpower
1	Oklahoma*	256
2	Illinois*	181
3	Texas-Austin	177
4	San Diego State*	172
5	Louisiana State	169
6	Ohio State*	156
7	Indiana*	146
8	Wisconsin*	146
9	Florida State	145
10	Texas Christian*	144
11	Cincinnati*	141
12	Arizona State	135
13	Oregon State*	134
14	Texas Tech	132
15	Georgia*	131
16	Saint Louis	129
17	Tennessee	127
18	Washington State*	126
19	Missouri State*	123
20	Nebraska*	122
21	Michigan	121
22	Missouri	121
23	Miami (Ohio)*	120
24	UCLA	119
25	Arkansas	116

Above are the 25 largest SigEp chapters from the 2013-2014 school year. These chapters represent 11 percent of our 231 chapters. However, their combined 3,589 undergraduates account for 24 percent of the 15,286 registered on June 30, 2014.

SigEp honors these top schools that have established a high bar for achievement for fall 2013. Congratulate and emulate them!

Recruitment

Rank	School	New Members
1	Oklahoma*	72
2	Florida State	64
3	Tennessee	63
4	Oregon State*	59
5	Nebraska-Omaha	58
6	San Diego State*	58
7	Louisiana State	57
8	Texas Tech	57
9	Indiana*	55
10	Missouri	54
11	Ohio State*	54
12	Illinois*	53
13	Nevada-Reno	53
14	Arizona State	52
15	Cal State-Northridge	52
16	California-Santa Barbara	51
17	South Florida*	50
18	Colorado	49
19	Utah	49
20	Arkansas	48
21	South Carolina	47
22	Alabama	46
23	Iowa	46
24	Southeast Missouri State*	46
25	UCLA	46

These 25 chapters recruited the most men in the '13-'14 academic year.

GPAs

Rank	School	Fall '13 GPA	Manpower
1	Yale	3.69	89
2	Stanford	3.64	56
3	Georgetown	3.60	87
4	Duke	3.57	75
5	Washburn*	3.57	27
6	Dartmouth	3.54	96
6	Northwestern	3.53	26
8	South Carolina	3.53	13
8	Indiana*	3.52	146
10	Columbia	3.52	93
11	Ohio State*	3.49	156
11	Alabama	3.47	90
13	Stevens Tech*	3.46	92
14	Georgia*	3.45	131
15	Cornell	3.45	67
16	Cleveland State	3.45	12
17	Nebraska*	3.44	122
18	Davis & Elkins	3.44	18
18	San Diego	3.43	62
20	MIT	3.41	35
21	Case Western*	3.39	89
21	Michigan	3.38	121
21	Elon*	3.38	93
21	American	3.38	55
25	Drexel*	3.37	102

SigEp honors these top 25 schools that have established a high bar for academic achievement for fall 2013.

Percentage Growth

#	School	2014	2013	Additional Members	% Growth
1	Lambuth*	12	5	7	140%
2	Clarion	28	16	12	75%
3	West Virginia	42	24	18	75%
4	Rhode Island	59	35	24	69%
5	Coastal Carolina	38	23	15	65%
6	California-San Diego	52	32	20	63%
7	Kentucky	34	21	13	62%
8	Missouri-Kansas City	24	15	9	60%
9	William & Mary	39	25	14	56%
10	Bowling Green State	51	33	18	55%
11	Florida Gulf Coast	57	38	19	50%
12	Northern Illinois	30	20	10	50%
13	Boston University	69	46	23	50%
14	Davis and Elkins	18	12	6	50%
15	Arkansas	116	78	38	49%
16	Florida State	145	98	47	48%
17	Alabama	90	62	28	45%
18	New Hampshire	43	30	13	43%
19	Texas Tech	132	94	38	40%
20	MIT	35	25	10	40%
21	Rutgers	73	53	20	38%
22	East Carolina	48	35	13	37%
23	Western Michigan	74	54	20	37%
24	Nebraska-Omaha	74	55	19	35%
25	Georgia Southern	68	51	17	33%

These 25 chapters saw the greatest percentage increase in their membership from fall 2013 to fall 2014.

Exceeding all-campus average

Chapter	Fall '13 GPA	ACA	Above ACA	2013 Manpower	Chapter	Fall '13 GPA	ACA	Above ACA	2013 Manpower
1 Cincinnati*	3.29	2.70	0.59	141	14 West Virginia	3.18	2.84	0.34	42
2 Lawrence Tech	2.86	2.30	0.56	54	15 Texas A&M	2.99	2.65	0.34	94
3 Washburn*	3.57	3.02	0.55	27	16 Montana State*	3.30	2.96	0.34	53
4 Cleveland State	3.45	2.92	0.53	12	17 Southern Mississippi	3.06	2.73	0.33	62
5 Ohio State*	3.49	3.09	0.40	156	18 Arizona	3.27	2.94	0.33	53
6 Alabama	3.47	3.07	0.40	90	19 Valparaiso*	3.33	3.01	0.32	76
7 Monmouth*	3.24	2.85	0.39	33	20 Kansas State	3.28	2.97	0.31	94
8 Indiana*	3.52	3.13	0.39	146	21 Maine*	3.25	2.96	0.29	71
9 Nebraska*	3.44	3.05	0.39	122	22 Murray State	3.23	2.94	0.29	70
10 Oregon State*	3.35	2.96	0.39	134	23 Nebraska-Omaha	3.21	2.92	0.29	74
11 South Carolina	3.53	3.14	0.39	13	24 Louisville	3.26	2.97	0.29	75
12 Northern Kentucky*	3.18	2.83	0.35	72	25 Wright State	3.07	2.79	0.28	40
13 Fort Hays State	3.03	2.68	0.35	25					

* Denotes RLC. Italics Denotes SEC

Legacy Society

Taking its name from the eternal impact these donors will make with their gifts, the Legacy Society honors the brothers and friends who choose to remember SigEp in their estate plan. Legacy Society donors have documented planned gifts on file with the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation.

W "H" CLARK

August 6, 2014

Charitable Giving

Early in my college years at N. C. State University Sig Ep invited me to become a member. That occasion turned out to be one of the most treasured steps of my life. I say one, since the best was to pursue and capture the real love of my life - Callie Anne.

Over the years we have been blessed to experience countless personal and business experiences. Along the way we have been able to share some of our good fortune with various organizations such as Sig Ep, colleges, churches, hospitals, museums and other organizations.

Underlying all of this I frequently realize that Sig Ep and the things it taught me have been invaluable. Qualities such as honesty, integrity, ambition, loyalty, and externity have always been an integral part of my life.

W "H" Clark

Andrew C. Baker
Elon '06

Anthony C.
Balestrieri
George Washington '03

Barb and Thomas
A. Barton
Loras '89

Christopher L.
Bittman
Colorado '85

Clark H. Byrum Sr.
Indiana '57

Chad H. Carlson, CFP
Baylor '95

W. H. Clark
North Carolina State '56

James L. Clayton
Tennessee '57

John M. Corby
Arizona State '74

Phillip A. Cox
Indiana '84

Bryan D. Coy
Wright State '93

Mark W. Davis
Nebraska '90

Wallace C. Doud
Wisconsin '48

Donald D. Duryee
Fort Hays State '71

Carl R. Ernst*

Michael A. Farley Jr.
Indiana '92

Mrs. Lenora
Galbreath*
Illinois '48

John R. Grayson
Purdue '46

John W. Hartman
Missouri '61

H. Lorenz Horn
Florida '56

Donald W. Hudler
Ohio Wesleyan '56

Arthur J. Hurt III
Davidson '88

Thomas B. Jelke
Florida International '90

Michael C.
Kearney Sr.
Missouri S&T '61

Garry C. Kief
Southern California '70

Robert L.
Klingenburg
Fairleigh Dickinson '74

Frank T. Ko
Pepperdine '97

David C. Lacey Jr.
Bowling Green State '53

Timothy P. Lambert
Cal State-Long Beach '90

Andrew C. Land
Clemson '04

Jeffrey E. Lenci
Montana '63

Paul H. Litcher
Indiana Tech '88

Shawn McKenna
Maine '77

Kevin A. O'Connor
Loras '88

Charles G. Raines
Sam Houston '64

Maurice L.
Richards Jr.
Tulsa '51

Marcus P. Robinson
Dayton '99

Maurice D. Rohleder
Evansville '58

Joseph E. Rooney
Oregon '44

Morris W. Rowland
Iowa State '47

A. J. Scribante
Kansas State '56

Shawn T. Sedlacek
Southern California '93

Steven F. Stockmeyer
Michigan '63

Howard E. Teagarden
Kansas State '43

E. Scott Thompson II
Southern Mississippi '99

William G. Tragos
Washington in St. Louis '56

Charles N. White Jr.
Western Michigan '62

Michael C. Williams
Memphis '69

John S. Wittemeyer III
Rutgers '55

* Friend of SigEp

The generosity of "H" and Callie Anne Clark's planned gift will allow them to pass on these values to young SigEps for generations to come.



Endowment honors lifelong service of John Hartman

By **EMILY LOWRY**, Donor Relations Manager

Since the days of Uncle Billy, few men have had such a far-reaching impact on SigEp. One of those men is **John Hartman, Missouri '61**. A Past Grand President and Order of the Golden Heart recipient, Hartman is perhaps best known for his role as co-founder of the Ruck Leadership Institute, a program he launched in 1998 alongside **Jay Hurt, Davidson '88**. Over the last 16 years, nearly 2,000 undergraduates have attended Ruck. Those assigned to the Red Group, a team of 20 scholars, studied under Hartman himself. His dedication to Ruck was recently honored by a campaign to rename the Red Group 'Team Hartman,' funding in perpetuity the attendance of 20 scholars.

This significant undertaking was supported by dozens of donors, who ultimately contributed more than \$500,000 to create the Team Hartman endowment (sigep.org/teamhartman). Hartman booked a flight to the recent SigEp donor-appreciation event, *A SigEp Homecoming*, without knowing what awaited him that weekend. Brothers from around the



country traveled to Richmond or prepared video messages for Hartman to relay his impact on their lives.

One such *Homecoming* attendee was **Alex Ashoff, Pittsburgh '14**, who came to Ruck from a chapter whose membership



had declined by more than 90 percent. As a member of the Red Group, Ashoff was inspired by Hartman's encouragement to run for chapter president and begin to rebuild the chapter with his brothers. Ashoff thanked Hartman for teaching him that, "SigEp is bigger than all of us."

CEO **Brian Warren, Virginia '04**, also took the stage to honor Hartman's five decades of volunteer service and mentorship. He told his own story of participating in the Red Group at Ruck in 2002, and said to the humbled honoree, "You modeled the way in every single way we could hope for." There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

One brother's gift to the next generation

By JOSEPH PAVEL, American '08

As SigEp returned to the Colorado campus in 2007, **Kent Hickman, Colorado '61**, wanted to ensure that his rechartered chapter would have the leadership needed to sustain success. So he set out to build a financial bridge to link his young brothers to the leadership training they would need.

Each year, executive officers leading SigEp chapters attend events like the Carlson Leadership Academy, their registration fees heavily supplemented by gifts to SigEp's Annual Fund. But for aspiring leaders, the cost of a leadership program is often prohibitive. Working with the Colorado Chapter, its alumni-volunteers and the Educational Foundation,

Hickman established a grant program to send the chapter's rising leaders to events along with the current key officers.

The program resonated deeply, pushing brothers to think about the role they would play in their chapter's future. Motivated by the program's success, Hickman decided to replicate the model at chapters near his Northern Virginia home. He focused on new and re-chartering chapters that needed alumni support.

After meeting with brothers at American University, Hickman knew he had found a chapter that would benefit from the program. The announcement that American brothers would be the latest beneficiaries of the leadership

grant was made at the chapter's 2008 installation banquet.

Hickman's leadership grant program continues to award scholarships to rising leaders which allows them to attend Carlson Leadership Academies, the Ruck Leadership Institute and Conclave. Today, brothers at American attend Carlson before running for office, exposing them to the responsibilities of the roles they aspire to fill.

"Many undergraduates have told me that their involvement in the chapter is primarily due to their early exposure to the many facets of chapter leadership," said Hickman.

While the grant program was started to ensure that there would be a strong supply of leaders within the undergraduate chapter, it has coincidentally created a dedicated base of alumni-volunteers. As the first beneficiaries of the grant program graduate, many are staying involved.

"A strong member graduating from a strong chapter possesses a compelling incentive to become a valuable alumnus," said Hickman. "I am seeing a large number of graduates becoming AVC members and volunteers—some even from locations far away from D.C."

Benjamin Schorr, '11, went on to serve as American's AVC president and credits the grant program with exposing him to essential leadership practices he still employs. "The leadership grant was my avenue to learn best practices from other SigEps around the country," said Schorr. "I applied for the scholarship because I would not have otherwise been able to attend Carlson. [It] gave me the confidence that I was not alone in my efforts to make my chapter the best it could be."

Fellow American volunteer and grant recipient **Dan Alt, '12**, also believes that Hickman's generosity propelled him to leadership. "As an undergraduate, the leadership grant acted as a charge for me to take it upon myself to do something more than just participate," he said. Today, Alt works alongside Schorr and a handful of other American alumni who have benefited from leadership grants to pay forward the generosity that Hickman once showed them. As it turned out, that bridge led to more than one way to ensure chapter leadership over time.



Kent Hickman's leadership grant program continues to award scholarships to rising leaders so they can attend Carlson Leadership Academies, the Ruck Leadership Institute and Conclave.



Tragos Quest to Greece: A connection to SigEp and self

By REI RAMOS

Famed as one of SigEp's most innovative leadership events, the Tragos Quest to Greece helps SigEp's top scholars connect with the ancient Greek ideals that gave rise to modern democracy and the American college fraternity. This program continues to earn attention from higher education professionals and undergraduates around the country. The story below originally appeared in the University of Rochester's The Buzz.

A summer expedition in Greece recently gave an undergraduate at the University of Rochester the opportunity to better understand his Fraternity's mission of "Building Balanced Men."

Russell Rosenkranz, Rochester '15, a senior majoring in applied mathematics and financial economics, was selected among hundreds of nationwide applicants for this year's Tragos Quest, a 10-day trip through Greece sponsored by Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Reading selections from Homer and Socrates and subsequently venturing through the country's archeological sites, he was given the opportunity to challenge himself mentally and physically in hopes of obtaining the Greek goal of having a "sound mind in a sound body."

The trip allowed Rosenkranz, president of the Rochester's New York Xi Chapter of SigEp, to simultaneously

experience Greek culture and consider the origins of his Fraternity. Along with 18 undergraduates from chapters around the nation, he traveled through Greece this past June.

"Each day of the trip was both mentally and physically rewarding," Rosenkranz said. Typically, the morning routine would consist of an early, 6:30 a.m. breakfast and an hour-long discussion with a professor based on writings from the poets and philosophers of Greek antiquity. Each day, the group would visit archeological sites that corresponded with the readings and history discussed.

The first day of the trip brought the team to Poseidon's Temple in Cape Sounion, a visit that helped to explain the capital's namesake—Athena—the goddess who defeated Poseidon in battle. Evening discussions were then held in smaller groups of two to three undergrad-

uate Tragos scholars, who focused on the values of Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love, upon which the Fraternity was founded.

Rosenkranz found the search for a sound mind to be perhaps the most challenging part of the expedition. The nightly group discussions often forced the students to think both outside of the box, as well as their comfort zones. "We constantly pushed the envelope to have some of the best and deepest conversations I have ever had in my life," Rosenkranz said. Delving into topics such as fear and the pursuits of happiness and success, the nightly discourse pushed the undergraduates to think critically and introspectively.

The trip included other obstacles. Physical challenges included hiking up mountains for better views of temples and dig sites and climbing a 1,000 step fortress overlooking Nafplio to get a panoramic view of the seaport city. Rosenkranz also won a race among the Tragos scholars, held on the original Olympic track.

"We were also constantly challenging one another to try new experiences or tasks each day," he said. The group's mentors asked them to prepare a lunch for the team on a set budget, for example,



which forced the Tragos scholars to coordinate and barter with locals despite lacking a common language.

The Quest's focus on physical fitness and mental equilibrium did not detract from the showcase of Greece's beautiful scenery. Rosenkranz recalled gorgeous, breathtaking views from the Hosios Loukas Monastery in the town of Nafpaktos. "I cannot do it justice describing it in words," he admitted.

The sixth day of the trip offered views of Delphi and the natural landscape of the Corycian Cave. The final day of the trip ended on the tallest hill of Athens, which overlooked the entire city and the Acropolis. A late dinner allowed the group to watch the sunset and see the entire city light up at night, a sight which Rosenkranz remembered as one of the most memorable of the entire trip.

Through all of the challenging physical activities and treks through memorable sights, Rosenkranz found a conversation with a stranger to be the most meaningful experience of his journey. He asked three locals in Nafpaktos for words of

wisdom. One older gentleman shared a story of the loss of his child. "It was shocking how this stranger was able to open up to us—four young Americans—and tell us his emotional story in such a vulnerable state." This brief, but meaningful, interaction moved Rosenkranz to empathize and made him feel somewhat of a surrogate son to the Greek man. Rosenkranz lost his father exactly a month prior to boarding the plane to Greece and understood the man's sadness.

A discussion on fear on the following day gave him the chance to share his grief with his mentors and fellow scholars. "That night, everyone opened up and showed that level of emotional vulnerability which led to the deepest and most meaningful conversation of the entire trip," he said. "It was an experience I will never forget; though short, it made the biggest impact on the rest of my trip and my life."

Rosenkranz's time in Greece, in addition to being an enriching cultural experience, taught him a few lessons

that he hopes to carry with him through senior year and beyond. The first lesson involves being more vulnerable and emotionally open to his peers. He believes that this alone will allow him to develop deeper relationships with those he trusts. The second is to make time to grab a cup of coffee with friends—or even strangers—and to "soak it all in" day-by-day. "I am one to always be on the go, so being able to sit and hangout with people helps clear my head and open my mind," he said.

Rosenkranz, a dual-degree student of math and economics, hopes to establish a career in consulting or banking. "When it comes down to it, I will choose a path that challenges me to grow and constantly learn." In the meantime, he manages involvement with SigEp, the varsity swim team, and a role in the Students' Association. With a Sound Mind and Sound Body, Rosenkranz is more than ready to take on the commitments of a Balanced Man.



Dozens of red roses were placed on Uncle Billy's grave during A SigEp Homecoming on September 27, 2014.

The following is a partial listing of SigEps by state of the member's home chapter who have passed away in recent months.

Names in red are national volunteers or those who have received national recognition for their service such as the Order of the Golden Heart, Volunteer of the Year, Distinguished Alumnus or Citation.

It is our chance to remember those brothers who, through their death, have reminded us that life is transitory.

To inform the Fraternity of the death of a member, email the obituary to communications@sigep.net or send to: In Memoriam, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 310 South Boulevard, Richmond, Va. 23220.

You can now read and submit obituaries and remembrances of SigEp brothers on the website www.sigep.org/news/inmemoriam.html

Undergraduate

Tucker W. Hipps
Clemson '17

Arizona

Paul D. Nicholson
Arizona State '74
Thomas E. Wildermuth
Arizona '67

California

Harry E. Barker
Southern California '49
Patrick M. Davis
Sacramento State '88
Tevye A. Ditter
California-Davis '01
F. William Gaiennie
UCLA '97

Colorado

Roland E. Warner
Colorado State '53

Florida

Jonathan A. Blumberg
Miami (Florida) '09

Georgia

Joseph E. Brown
Georgia Tech '74

Idaho

Clark D. Meek
Idaho State '61

Illinois

Ted Bockman
Illinois '50
Anthony A. Holtz
Bradley '83

Indiana

Peter W. Hanes
Indiana '50
Edward W. Knudson
Indiana '50
John C. Walker
Indiana State '58
Robert K. Wright
Indiana State '63

Iowa

Marvin A. Bendorf
Iowa '49

Kansas

Teddy R. Ashford
Kansas State '55
William H. Atwood
Kansas State '57
Charles E. Weil
Emporia State '70

Kentucky

Andrew J. Fulks
Louisville '95

Massachusetts

David A. Miles
WPI '86

Michigan

Albert E. Fey
Michigan '55

Mississippi

Will R. Thomas Jr.
Mississippi State '50

Missouri

Marvin E. Blevins
Central Missouri
'69 (Missouri Theta
Founding Father)
William F. Morse
Missouri '62

Montana

James A. Alexander
Montana '41

New York

Robert A. Haus
Canisius Renaissance
Charles J. Koester Jr.
Cornell '56
Donald E. Morrison Jr.
Syracuse '47

North Carolina

P. Hunter Dalton Jr.
Davidson '45
Charles L. Justus
North Carolina State '56
John L. Lantzius
North Carolina State '55
William H. Marley
North Carolina State '60

Ohio

Roger S. Joslin
Miami (Ohio) '58
Ryan J. Marcia
Ohio State '12
William P. Woodbridge
Ohio Wesleyan '58

Oklahoma

Robert M. Peterson
Tulsa '56
J. Barry Stout
Oklahoma '60

Oregon

James K. Black
Oregon State '62



Renato Villacorte, CalPoly-Pomona '91, reads from the Sigma Phi Epsilon Memorial Service at Uncle Billy's grave in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Va.

Pennsylvania

Tracy A. Anderson
Thiel '77

James A. Artzberger
Thiel '56

William I. Hamer
Westminster '52

Ronald A. Robertson
Thiel '53

John P. Woods
Thiel '58

Tennessee

Richard J. Davis
Tennessee '51

Walter B. Hill
Memphis '52

C. Lockwood Marine
Tennessee '58

Ezra L. McConnell Jr.
Tennessee '54

Terry L. Trice
Memphis '57

Robert L. White Jr.
Tennessee '55

Texas

Leslie A. Bassham
Tyler Junior '88

J. Richard Darling
Sam Houston '69

Joseph R. Kennedy
Texas Christian '70

Lee A. Paulsel
Texas Christian '59

Jack C. Shelton Sr.
Texas-Austin '44

Wayne H. Wells
Texas Christian '70

Utah

Paul A. Bartlome
Utah '11

Von J. Elcock
Utah State '67

Vermont

Vincent P.
Sassone Sr.
Norwich '50

Virginia

Emmanuel K. Bhatta
Randolph-Macon '49

Edward L. Kurtz
Richmond '50

Washington

Robert W. Thompson
Washington State '53

West Virginia

Brandon A. Higgs
West Virginia '02

**Ronald G.
Montgomery**

West Virginia '77
(former Headquarters
staff)

Wisconsin

John W. Checkis
Carroll '51

Robert J. Dietz
Lawrence '50

Robert L. Michel

Wisconsin '48 (former
district governor)

**“What you leave behind is not
what is engraved in stone
monuments, but what is woven
into the lives of others.”**

~ PERICLES

Wondering if your chapter appears in this issue of the *Journal*?

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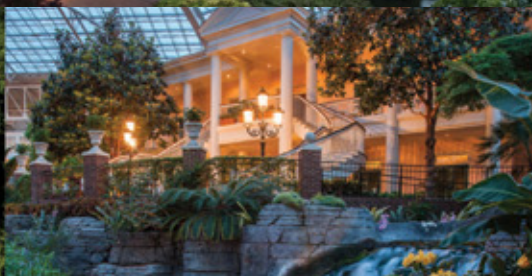
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